DAILY DIGEST

May 1, 1924

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

Section 1

Japanese Immigration 1 — The Japanese exclusion compromise which the House and Senate conferees on the Immigration Bill will recommend at President Coolidge's suggestion in all probability will be accepted by the Senate. (Press, May.1.)

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2 — A Tokio dispatch to the press of Apr.29 says: "Officials here are not encouraged by the compromise of the immigration problem proposed by President Coolidge, that the effective date for Japanese exclusion should be fixed far enough ahead to permit negotiation of a new gentlemen's agreement, although it is admitted that any outcome is better than outright exclusion by the American Legislature. It is felt the President's proposal, which would leave exclusion to be self-imposed by the Japanese Government, while attenuating the affront to Japan, would fall short of satisfying public opinion."

Muscle Shoals — Maj. F. B. Stahlman, publisher of the Nashville (Tenn.) Banner, and W. G. Waldo, secretary of the Tennessee River Improvement Association, occupied the day before the Senate agriculture committee arguing in favor of the Ford bid for the Muscle Shoals project. (Press, May 1.)

Cotton Situation — A Boston dispatch to the press of Apr.30 says: "An acute situation has developed in the cotton industry, according to reports and addresses at the semiannual meeting here to-day of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers. Robert Amory, president, said importations are now in sufficient volume to represent the stopping of approximately 35,000 of New England's fine looms. Foreign goods are coming in, he said, in part because they are cheaper, but inasmuch as some of equal price with the domestic makes are being imported it is evident there is distinct selling value in the word 'imported.' He asked that cotton manufacturers make capital of the term 'New England made.'"

Reserve Bank Rediscount Cut — A reduction in the rediscount rate of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from 4½ to 4 per cent was ordered by the directors to-day. The change, which will become effective tomorrow, marks the first action on the rate since February 23, 1923, when an increase from 4 per cent was made, and is expected to have a widespread influence on money market and trade conditions.(Press,May 1.)

Business Conditions — In summing up business conditions at the first of the new month, some Wall Street institutions anticipate a high rate of production during the balance of the year. (Press, May 1.)

. Section 2

Farm Organization An editorial in The Ohio Farmer for April 26 says: "Two significant events have taken place in Ohio agriculture the past two weeks. First, the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation invited the master and secretary of the Ohio State Grange to sit on the executive committee of the federation. This step shows a disposition on the part of the farm organizations to make even more effective the harmonious relations that have existed in the past. The second significant event was the formation of the Ohio Agricultural Council noted on the opposite page. This organization combines every agricultural interest in the State into a compact unit and will result in greatly increased efficiency of each member organization and institution. Both of these events are steps in the right direction and by contact and association some program will be worked out which will secure in permanent form the benefits which have accrued to date from the farm organization impulse of the past few years, and insure a firm base on which to build the farm organization work of the future."

McFadden Bill Referring to recent hearings on the McFadden bill to amend national banking regulations, an editorial in Farm Implement News for April 24 says: "We believe that any extension of the branch banking privilege would be an opening wedge leading ultimately to national control of banking in the hands of a comparatively few large banking groups located in the big money centers. We further believe that this would affect adversely the interests of both the implement trade and of farmers. We credit the average country banker with a love for his own community and a desire so to conduct his business that safe banking is combined with community upbuilding. His decision as to loans to farmers is determined more by the moral risk and character of the applicant than by the amount of security possessed. He knows his people. He knows those who will pay. He likes to put money to work in the community rather than to send it to the money centers for investment. The branch bank would have to do business on a different basis. No hired manager would care to be responsible for moral risks, even though he had the authority to make such loans, which would be inconceivable. Loans to agriculture in such cases would be a cold matching of assets against loans, with emphasis on certainty of payment the minute due so as to preserve the banks liquid capital for transfer to speculative centers when wanted. National bankers point to the failure of small rural banks as reason for permitting branch national banks to take over rural banking. As a matter of choice between local banking risks and New York banking policies, we prefer the former."

Parcel Post Rates Referring to the bill recently introduced to increase parcel post rates, an editorial in The Wisconsin Agriculturist says:"...We do know that farmers and farm women have not taken full advantage of the parcel post system to market their products in a wholesale way, yet more and more of them are using the parcel post for marketing purposes. However, the increased rate will apply on everything that the farmer and his family buys which is delivered through parcel post and farmers are good patrons of this system of buying.

They buy largely through parcel post and should the Paige bill become a law the effect probably would be to wipe out farm products marketing by parcel post and transfer merchandise from parcel post to the express companies.....We can not afford to put parcel post out of business. Years of strenuous effort were required to get this law, which is now in general use throughout the country and its numerous advantages should not in any way be curbed....Should the Paige bill become a law it would simply mean more taxes for the farmer who uses the parcel post system. If the rate is changed from 5 cents to 15 cents per pound the extra 10 cents per pound is added to the price of the article that the farmers buy. It is a tax on the purchaser and not on the manufacturer of the product."

Production Control The Commercial and Financial Chronicle for April 26 says: "News comes from the Middle West that independent farmers' organizations are at work lining up, and signing up, the farmers, with a view to limiting production and controlling price. Wheat, of course, is the staple to be controlled. Mention is also made of a similar attempt to interfere with the natural growing of corn--though this is said to be more in the way of control of the marketing of this product. In wheat, the purpose is to pledge the farmers to holding the crop until 'cost plus a reasonable profit' is assured. There has been so much effort put forth in Government channels in aid of the farmers that we do not wonder at the rapid spread of these movements. If any other vocation or industry were in this condition we would call it a panic....It seems so plain that we can only account for these new organizations on the theory that certain organizers, not themselves 'dirt' farmers, are financially interested in the promotion. If one country, of the five or six principal wheat growing countries, by the limitation of production can not materially affect the world's market price of wheat, how can one farmer expect to assist in this task by signing up some mythical agreement of all to do so? How can he individually know that all will sign? And how can he expect that such a flimsy contract will be universally kept, once it is signed? It seems much like calling upon the spirits of the vasty deep to save the ship. Out in California, recently, one county employed a rain-maker--no rain, no pay. And it rained! It rained the requisite number of inches called for. He will get his money. But whether his incantations with gases caused the downfall is another matter. And so it may be with wheat production control. The crops may fail elsewhere; there may be other affecting conditions not now foreseen; and the price of wheat may enhance for the next crop. But can the farmer who enters this agreement, so unlikely to be honestly observed, say American control of production did it?"

Rubber George Clarke Cox is the author of an article on "Rubber--Practically a Consumer's Monopoly," in The Annalist for April 28. He says in part: "One overwhelmingly great producer of rubber, one overwhelmingly great consumer of rubber, each depending upon the other, would seem to make for a constant and plentiful supply at low prices for an indefinite period. The British control the

supply (with modifications as noted later), the United States takes nearly all of it....The table shows that all the rubber in the world up to 1900 was from the Amazon region, so-called 'wild rubber,' though it was not thus named until some year later. This production had a sufficiently rapid growth, doubling or trebling every decade until in 1900, against the entire production of 186 tons recorded in 1836, which stood at the imposing figure of 26,271 tons. Yet this is only a starter for crude rubber as a whole. Plantation rubber made its modest bow in 1900 with a production of four tons, and its very modest progress (in actual quantity) until, in 1906, 510 tons were produced--127½ times the quantity of six year before. At the end of 1922, with 377,786 tons, we have 94,446 times the amount produced in the first year of the twentieth century. In the meantime 'wild rubber' of the Amazon had risen as high as 48,767 tons in 1912, only to sink to 26,696 tons in 1922; and other 'wild' rubber from Africa, Central America, &c., had risen as high as 31,980 tons in 1904, to sink to 5,000 or less in 1922. Cultivated or plantation rubber has driven out the wild, though we note that the original Para from the Amazon has not only given its name to all high-grade rubber and that 'up river' still means 'high grade,' but also that Amazon River rubber is still actually of very high grade....Consider well the situation. Wild rubber, often of fine quality, but sometimes mixed with bark and dirt and limited in quantity, is to-day negligible. Since Hevea Brasiliensis was transplanted from the Amazon to the East Indies, plantation rubber has pushed wild rubber off the map. Plantation rubber is cleaner, it is so even in quality that it may be bought by description ten thousand miles away, it can be produced in nearly unlimited quantity (given proper financial reward), and for a constantly decreasing cost. What is there to worry about? Not a great deal--but certain facts must be faced. The first fact has already been noted. The British and Dutch between them control practically the entire output of crude rubber, the British dominating largely. Americans own about 100,000 acres (out of a total of 3,750,000), but in a British sphere of influence. In times of war, even if the war did not concern us directly, we could not get at our rubber except by permission of a foreign power. But this great fact must be offset by another one. There is no profit in growing anything unless it can be sold. The United States is the great customer of the rubber plantations. The plantations would be in a bad way unless their products could be constantly sold at a fair profit. It would seem as though the interests of the British and Dutch on the one hand and of Americans on the other were pretty nearly identical...As the amount of plantation rubber increases and total production can be closely calculated and provided for in advance, the price diminishes; thus following the orthdox economic path of supply and demand; but the situation is not altogether simple. With one great producer and one great consumer, bargaining for price should be simple."

Wheat Through Vancouver

The "rebuilding" of Vancouver on the west coast of Canada is expected to give the wheat growers of Alberta, and the Canadian Northwest in general, a new highway to the markets of the world. Development work now being carried on in that port, including the building of new piers, grain elevators, railroad extensions and

other improvements, is expected to bring about a shift in the movement of Canadian grain, much of which has been shipped East during the past and exported through Atlantic ports. The new Vancouver, in the opinion of Canadian interests, will also provide facilities for exports to Europe, via the Panama Canal. (Press, Apr.27.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

Apr.30: New York Round White potatoes closed at $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities. Northern sacked Round White potatoes sold at $1.10 to $1.25. Florida Spaulding Rose $1 to $2 lower per barrel at $7.50 to $9 in leading markets. Texas Bliss Triumphs slightly weaker at $5 to $5.50 in midwestern cities. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions declined 50¢ to $1.00, ranging generally $1.50 to $2 per standard crate for U.S.No.1, top of $2.50 in Baltimore. Florida tomatoes, turning, wrapped, advanced $1 to $2, closing at $5 to $7 per six basket carrier, repacked stock bringing as high as $8 in Chicago. Cabbage markets firm. Florida pointed type 50 to 75¢ higher in New York and Philadelphia at $2.75 to $3.50 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper. Louisiana Klondike strawberries slightly weaker at $3.25 to $3.75 per 24-pint crate in city wholesale markets; $2.50 to $2.97 1/2 f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples 25 to 50¢ lower in leading eastern cities at $3 to $3.50 per barrel.

Chicago hog prices closed at $7.40 for the top and $7 to $7.35 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8 to $11.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.75 to $10; feeder steers $5.50 to $9.50; veal calves $6.50 to $10.; fat lambs $14.50 to $16.75 and yearlings $11.75 to $14.75.

Closing wholesale prices of 92 score butter to-day: New York 37¢; Philadelphia 37 1/2¢; Boston 37 1/2¢.

Average grain prices quoted April 30: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.12 to $1.30. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.05 3/4 to $1.11 1/4; St. Louis $1.04; Kansas City $1.02 to $1.05. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.06; St. Louis $1.08 to $1.09; Kansas City $1.08. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 78 to 78 1/2; Minneapolis 72 3/4 to 73 1/4¢. No.3 yellow corn St. Louis 79¢; Kansas City 73 to 74¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 77 1/4 to 78 1/2¢; Kansas City 71¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 3/4 to 49 1/4¢; Minneapolis 44 5/8 to 45 1/8¢; St. Louis 49 1/4¢; Kansas City 49¢.

Spot cotton down 2 points, closing at 29.54¢ per lb. New York May future contracts advanced 3 points, closing at 29.47¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	Apr.30,	Apr.29,	Apr.30,1923.
20 Industrials	90.63	90.65	98.38
20 R.R.stocks	81.06	80.90	84.86

(Wall St. Jour., May 1.)

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May 2, 1924.

Section 1

Alaskan Fisheries — Joining with Secretary Hoover in advocacy of legislation to conserve the Alaskan fisheries, the President sent a letter to-day to Chairman Jones, of the Senate Commerce Committee, urging prompt passage of the pending bill to prevent monopolies and special privileges in the fisheries and the establishment of reserves. (Press, May 2.)

Cotton Situation — A Boston dispatch to the press of May 1 says: "The National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, in session here to-day, passed three resolutions bearing directly on the textile industry. One deplores the effect that high taxes have on business and appeals to Congress to exercise the strictest economy in appropriations in order that taxes may be reduced. The second attacks the 'Truth in Fabric' bill, opposing its enactment in its present form, because it is impractical, unworkable and fraught with dangers to the textile industry.' The third resolution authorizes the president of the association to appoint a committee for institution of proceedings to obtain an increase in tariff on cotton goods through the operation of the flexible clause in Section 315 of the Fordney Tariff Act of 1922."

A Woonsocket, R.I., dispatch to the press of May 2 says: "The Nourse mill here of the Manville-Jenckes Company, will close down tonight for the remainder of the week, following the shutdown of the big Manville mill at Manville last night for the same period. The Social and Glove mills of the same company are still operating, but on a curtailed scale. Market conditions are given as the cause."

A Nashua, N.H., dispatch to the press of May 2 says: "The Nashua and Jackson mills of the Nashua Manufacturing Company, employing 3,000 operatives, will be shut down next week, the company announced to-day. At the Jackson mills officials said announcement of resumption would be made at a later date, when the condition of the cotton market warrants."

Wheat Imports — The 12-cent increase in duty on wheat imports from Canada, placed in effect April 6 by presidential order, has practically stopped such imports, it was shown in figures made available to-day at the Commerce Department. The Commerce Department figures show that wheat imports from Canada for the week preceding April 6 were 2,260,000 bushels, while only 37,000 bushels were imported during the week after the order became effective. (Press, May 2.)

Muscle Shoals — Another bill for operation of Muscle Shoals was introduced in the Senate yesterday by Chairman Norris of the Senate agriculture committee, who presented a proposal prepared by James T. Lloyd, Washington attorney and former representative from Missouri, who described it as a compromise between Government and private ownership. Mr. Lloyd said he offered the bill as a suggestion for solving the Muscle Shoals problem and that he did not represent any special interests. (Press, May 2.)

Section 2

Agriculture in the South

An editorial in Manufacturers Record for May 1 says: "Primarily from top to bottom the agricultural problem of the South is a matter of a larger market for diversified products. This market can only be fully developed by the creation of industrial interests which furnish employment to laborers and create cities in which every variety of farm product can find a market...The home market for diversified farm products can be greatly enlarged even under present conditions, for the South is buying hundreds of millions of dollars worth of western products. But to do this means cooperative work on the part of the town and city and village people of the South, determined as far as possible, regardless of some ... little inconvenience, to assist the local farmers in finding markets for their products. With that spirit developed among the consumers already in the South, with a lessening of the criticisms against those who may regard a protective tariff as essential to the best interests of this section and of the country, and to the broadening of thought on all economic questions with a readiness to study these problems from a non-partisan standpoint, and with a concentration of energy upon industrial development, we can then look forward to a far more rapid growth of the South than we have had in the past. And this means especially a far greater prosperity for the farmers."

Canadian Immigration

An Ottawa dispatch to the press of Apr.28 says: "More immigrants entered Canada during the fiscal year 1922-23 than in any similar period since 1914, the Department of Immigration announced to-day. The total for the twelve months was 148,560."

Cheaper Cotton

Inasmuch as the staple industry of Lancashire is regarded as being entirely dependent upon cheap cotton in large quantities, it is interesting to record, one London review of the situation remarks, that in the market at the present time there are hopes that cotton will be plentiful at well under one shilling per pound this autumn. In this connection it is noted that cotton futures are quoted well below the spot price in the New York market. A good deal depends, of course, on the coming crop, says the paper, for which the weather is reported as having been rather favorable as a whole. It is estimated that if the American crop is only at the average level, supplies will be abundant, in view of the long period of slack trade which has caused appreciable diminution in demand, and has thus fully justified the hand-to-mouth policy adopted by the manufacturers during recent weeks. (Press, Apr.28.)

Dawes' Report

There remain many details in the Dawes report that must be nailed down firmly before Americans can be expected to take part in the contemplated $200,000,000 loan to Germany, according to the monthly review of the National City Bank, which will be issued today. One of the most important of these, according to the review, is the question of how many years the payments to be made by Germany are to run. "The committee did not consider that it had been asked to determine the sum total of the payments," according to the review. "It has dealt with the ability of Germany to make annual payments out of income, and the ability to make such payments

over a period of years, be it ten or thirty, for a country of growing industrial strength implies ability to go on doing so indefinitely. How long the payments shall continue, therefore, depends upon other considerations than mere ability to pay, and the committee had not been invited to deal with them." (Press, May 1

Flax and Linen

News from Belfast, Ireland, is to the effect that the linen industry has taken on new life, after having been almost ruined by world war conditions, general troubles in Ireland, the American tariff and labor conditions. The price of cotton has had something to do with the renewal of orders for linen and it is said that while a year ago half of the mills in Belfast were working with but half forces and often on half time the wheel of fortune has turned and linen is again in great demand and is being produced in large quantities. A correspondent writing from Belfast says "how long the linen boom will last depends chiefly on raw material supplies. Flax is not inexhaustible. A collateral factor will be the price of the two rival fabrics. If cotton quotations recede linen loses comparatively; if linen prices soar cotton stands to win again. Indications are, however, that the boom will be sufficiently prolonged to enable the linen trade to recoup its years of losses." (Florida Times-Union, Apr.28.)

McFadden Bill

Referring to the McFadden bill now before Congress for revision of the laws regulating national banks, an editorial in Commercial West for April 26 says: "It would seem highly desirable that Federal laws be amended so as to leave no doubt of the legal status of this matter of branches, and that some means be found whereby State banks and national banks may be competitors on an equal footing. This was thought to have been accomplished by having both national and State banks as members of the Federal Reserve System, but the enactment of State laws on the subject of branches, at variance with Federal laws, has upset such calculations. An ideal banking system for any country would be one in which all banks could work together, or in harmony with each other, and not be split into warring factions. To establish such conditions calls for statesmanship of a high order."

Muscle Shoals

A Charlotte, N.C., dispatch to The Wall Street Journal of April 30 says: "Cotton mill men in this section are beginning to feel concerned over the proposed acquisition of Muscle Shoals by Henry Ford. For a long time they did not give the proposition much thought; they wanted the property developed and were anxious for farmers to have cheaper fertilizer if it could be obtained that way. They also wanted to see more power developed for industrial purposes, and expected the Government to see that the public was given full protection no matter who obtained the property. Reports here indicate that New England textile men fear the eventual results if the present proposal goes through. Southern mill men are now asking what will happen to their businesses if Ford, securing the Muscle Shoals properties, with its ready-made industrial community, consisting of acres of the best type of industrial structures and accompanying housing facilities, practically as a gift

from the Government, establishes a textile center which could operate at a substantial profit while selling goods on a level which would not allow the mills of the South operating expenses. There is likely to be some heavy protesting against the Ford proposition from this section before long, whereas, heretofore, this district has either been indifferent or favored the plan because of the much talked of cheaper fertilizer."

New Uses For Cotton An editorial in Manufacturers Record for May 1 says: "Prediction of further curtailment in the production of cotton goods, with consequent shrinkage in the prices of the raw staple, well may turn the attention of cotton experts to the development of a much wider range of use for cotton in one form or another. The articles manufactured in whole or in part of cotton and the many other lines in which it is utilized are numerous, but in these days of inventive genius and of scientific research and experiment there can be no question that the field of consumption can be tremendously enlarged....There already are a thousand and one uses for cotton--but, undoubtedly there also are a thousand and one uses for cotton which have not yet been discovered."

Northwestern Situation "Recent troubles of the Northwest simply bring out again the fact that there are no substitutes for work, character and experience," said an observer of conditions in that section. "When the boom was on, not only farmers but bankers lost their heads. Those numerous rural banks were not 'fly-by-night' affairs, but were started by local men who had made money in stock or grain, and thought they could make still more in the banking business. When credit was easy they were so anxious to keep their money at work they encouraged borrowing up to the hilt....This diversification program is a good idea, but it must not be pushed too far or carried to extremes. Some farmers see red on hearing diversification talked, claiming it is just a 'dodge' of the dairying machinery and other 'interests' to increase sales. The principal thing is to get the northwestern farmer growing enough foodstuffs for his own use, without setting out even his garden in wheat..... (Press, May 1.)

"Tramp" Freight Car Practice An Omaha dispatch to the press of April 26 says: "The 'tramp' freight car, loaded with food and started out at random by the shipper with the expectation of reconsigning before its destination is reached, is to be outlawed as one of the greatest evils in the food and grain industry. War has been declared on both the 'tramp' and the 'food scalper,' who makes use of the wandering freight car, by western producers, assisted by the car service division of the American Railway Association. A special meeting has just been held in Omaha, to arrange to fight the evil, which has been declared the greatest single factor for high prices to the consumer and low returns to the farmer. G. G. Williams, of Greeley, Colo., who represented the North Carolina producers at the conference, cited a case in which nine carloads of potatoes were shipped and reshipped so many times before final sale that the farmer who raised the potatoes got just six cents in stamps for the entire shipment. A carload of eggs was shipped and reconsigned

seven times before it was finally sold, and that in the cith where it originated. In the meantime, charges of seven different commission merchants piled up against the eggs, and the expense was further increased by seven railroad charges. Mr. Williams suggested that railroads permit only two free reconsignments of 'tramp cars,' and thereafter force the 'food scalper' to pay as much as 3½ cents per 100 pounds for subsequent reshipments."

Section 3.

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Farm Products

May 1: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.50 for the top and $7.10 to $7.45 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.25 to $11.65; butcher cows and heifers $3.65 to $10; feeder steers $5.75 to $9.50; light and medium weight veal calves $6.75 to $10.25; fat lambs $14.50 to $16.75; yearlings $11.75 to $14.75; fat ewes $5.25 to $8.75.

New York Round White potatoes closed at $1.65 to $1.85; sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites 5 to 10¢ lower in Chicago at $1.05 to $1.25. Florida Spaulding Rose declined $1 to $2 per barrel in leading markets. Texas Bliss Triumphs steady at $5 to $5.50; sacked per 100 pounds in Kansas City. Cabbage markets steady to firm. Florida and South Carolina pointed type $2.75 to $3.00 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in Philadelphia. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions 50¢ to $1.00 lower at $1.50 to $2.00 per standard crate for U.S. No.1; mostly 90¢ to $1.00 f.o.b. Florida tomatoes, turning, wrapped, generally $6 to $7 per six-basket carrier, repacked stock bringing as high as $8 in Chicago. Louisiana Klondike strawberries slightly weaker at $3.50 to $3.75 per 24-pint crate in leading city markets; $2.75 to $3.30 f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples $2.50 to $3.50 per barrel in eastern markets.

Average grain prices quoted May 1, 1924: No.1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.12 to $1.30 3/4; No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.06 to $1.13 1/4; Kansas City $1.08 to $1.09. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 78 1/4 to 79 3/4¢. No.3 yellow corn St. Louis 79 1/2¢, Kansas City 73 1/2 to 74¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 75¢, Kansas City 71 to 72¢, No.3 white oats Chicago 46 1/2 to 48 1/2¢; St.Louis 49 1/4¢, Kansas City 49¢.

Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter to-day; New York 37 1/2¢; Chicago 35 1/2¢; Boston 37 1/2¢; Philadelphia 37 1/2¢.

Spot cotton up 44 points, closing at 29.98¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 49 points, closing at 29.96¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 1,	Apr.30,	May 1, 1923.
20 Industrials	92.12	90.63	97.40
20 R.R.stocks	81.63	81.06	84.91

(Wall Street Journal, May 2, 1924.)

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May 3, 1924.

Section 1

Japanese Immigration — The President permitted it to become known at the White House yesterday that he favors Japanese exclusion, and not restriction, but that he is trying to accomplish it in a way that will not give any unnecessary offense to a friendly nation. The President likewise made it clear that he has no doubt that there will be an exclusion bill. (Press, May 3.)

Farm Relief — Supporters of farm relief legislation are preparing to force the issue before Congress adjourns. The McNary-Haugen bill was favorably reported to the House yesterday by the House agriculture committee and in the Senate, Senator Norbeck said he planned to introduce the bill to-day as a rider to the revenue bill to bring the issue squarely before that body. Representative Haugen, coauthor of the bill, has an appointment with the President to-day, when he will attempt to learn the chief executive's attitude on the bill before further progress is made. (Press, May 3.)

Grain Trade — A Chicago dispatch to the press of May 2 says: "At no time in the history of the grain trade has it been in a more chaotic state than at present, due to legislative agitation. Grain men are all at sea over the possibility of the passage of the McNary-Haugen bill. Reports from Washington suggest that it has a chance of being passed, as a number of Representatives and Senators who will go out of office with this session are said to be favorable to farm legislation. To make the situation worse, there is the Caraway-Brand bill on the Senate calendar to prevent short selling of grains and cotton. Grain men say that its passage would kill all speculation on the exchanges. This, with the McNary-Haugen bill, it is asserted by grain leaders, would put the exchanges out of business."

Public Inspection of Tax Returns — The Senate adopted the Norris amendment to the revenue bill making all tax returns matters of record and open to public inspection by a vote of 48 to 27. (Press, May 3.)

To Broadcast Senate Proceedings — The Senate adopted a resolution by Senator Howell, asking the War and Navy departments to ascertain if it would be practicable to broadcast the proceedings of the Senate by radio through Government stations. (Press, May 3.)

Section 2

Beef Conditions Abroad

Murdo Mackenzie, of the Institute of American Institute of Meat Packers, and world-wide authority on livestock, recently returned from abroad. He calls attention to the fact that the cattle industry in Great Britain is at a standstill at present, because of foot-and-mouth disease. The difficulty being experienced in stamping it out has rather puzzled breeders and feeders particularly, and they hardly know how to go about planning for the future. The need for money has been so great that many breeders of purebred cattle have sold such individuals, particularly from among their young breeding stock, as were most outstanding and would bring the best price. Many of these young cattle went to the Argentine before the foot-and-mouth quarantine restrictions were put into effect. This depletion of the breeding herds is bound to be reflected in the character of cattle a few years hence, and Mr. Mackenzie feels that the situation is a serious one. British and Scotch feeders have been taking the Canadian store cattle that have been going across, but most of these have come from Eastern Canada and are of inferior breeding from a beef standpoint. The freight rates from Western Canada are so high that they have made almost impossible the shipment of the well-bred cattle from the prairie provinces. Hence the results are not as satisfactory as they should be, and unless something can be done to help out the Canadian cattle they are likely to have a pretty black eye on the British market. (Live Stock Markets, Apr.24.)

Britain May Recognize Mexico

A London dispatch to the press of April 28 says: "Prime Minister Macdonald to-day appointed Sir Thomas B. Hohler, British minister at Budapest, to proceed to Mexico on a special mission and to investigate and report on the general political situation there....Officials hope that his report will lead to early British recognition of Mexico. The manner in which the Mexican government has handled the recent revolutionary crisis has caused considerable confidence here and the hope that the full restoration of diplomatic relations will be possible shortly."

Cooperative Fruit Marketing

A Chicago dispatch to the press of Apr.28 says: "Progress in cooperative marketing of fruit and vegetables in thirty-nine States was outlined to-day in the annual report of the Federated Fruit and Vegetable Growers' for 1923, the first year of its operation. Citing a volume of 33,510 cars of produce marketed in 772 cities and towns, the report, which is indorsed by the American Farm Bureau Federation, also points to indicated gains in tonnage for 1924 of approximately 30 per cent...The experience of the first year has shown 'conclusively the wisdom of associating commodity groups in an unified sales organization' the report said. "The sales volume was divided 30 per cent potatoes; 28 per cent apples, 25 per cent deciduous fruit and 17 per cent other fruits and vegetables.'"

Electrical Development

An editorial in The Wisconsin Agriculturist for April 26 says: "Now comes word of an electrical community that is to be started right here in Wisconsin in order to test out still further the possibilities of utilizing the invisible but powerful current.

The State University, State Department of Agriculture, and a number of State wide farmers' organizations are cooperating to promote this electrical community and reports will be made on it from time to time. Farmers and electrical manufacturers will be particularly interested in the outcome. The possibilities can not safely be forecasted. A wise prophet never makes his forecasts too definite or too close at hand, but we are willing to stroke our prophetic whiskers and allow that the sale of electric plants and the use of current from utility lines is to increase steadily on farms through the years to come. When farmers once taste this kind of blood they will be satisfied with nothing else, except it be more efficient."

Feed Pool

An editorial in The New England Farms for April 26 says: "Several changes in policy announced for the Eastern States 1924 Feed Pool, which opened April 21st to continue to the last of May, should make it appeal to a still larger number of farmers than those participating in last year's successful pool. Giving the purchaser the option of buying either at a known market price plus carrying charges, or on the usual 'blind' pool basis, whereby the price is not known until all orders are in and contracts placed, is a new departure in the Exchange pool policy. It will undoubtedly attract many new poolers who have hesitated hitherto to buying in advance with no knowledge of the delivered cost. Another feature, which should guarantee a favorable pool price, is the flexibility allowed the Exchange in altering the original formulae to suit any emergency which might arise from a bullish market in certain closely controlled ingredients. It is understood that no such substitutes would be made without immediate notice to the farmer, or with any sacrifice in quality; but only after the recommendations of the College Feed Conference Board, and in the interests of economy."

Freight Rates

A New York dispatch to the press of May 1 says: "Asserting that the present drive for reduced freight rates is only a step toward Government ownership of the country's carriers, E.E.Loomis, president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company and chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the eastern railroads, has made public a statement in which instances are cited showing that the freight rates are only a very small item in the cost of commodities to the consumer. 'Transportation costs are credited with an importance in the cost of living entirely unwarranted by the facts,' declared Mr. Loomis. 'The freight charge on a pound of ham from Cedar Rapids, Ia., to New York is slightly less than three-quarters of a cent. If dealers' purchases are made from reasonable sources of supply, one never pays as much as a cent a pound in freight charges on sugar, coffee, oatmeal, potatoes, eggs, fresh meat, butter or some twenty-five other important articles of food. Freight rates on American railroads are the lowest in the world. The average rate on a ton of freight carried one mile in the United States is approximately one cent. For an equivalent service, English railroads receive three times as much and French and German roads about four times as much.'"

German Production — Throughout March the gradual increase in the volume of German production, which began in February, continued throughout February, Commercial Attache Breed cables the Department of Commerce However, there is considerable question as to the actual profits derived. (Press, May 2.)

Japanese Immigration — An editorial in the New York Times of May 1 says: "Make haste slowly is good counsel in any language. It is particularly needed in dealing with peoples of differing traditions and standards. The President is following his own inclination, as well as the sound advice to treat every nation on earth with consideration and courtesy, in favoring the postponement of the date on which the Japanese exclusion clause of the Immigration act is to take effect. It was the unkindest cut of all to make further discrimination against the Japanese by providing that the act should go into effect instantly so far as they are concerned, while with respect to Europeans, Western Asiatics and Africans two months of grace are given."

Milk Shortage — The possibility of a milk shortage and the advisability of permitting the use of manufactured milk products was the chief topic at the eighth annual convention of the Central Atlantic States Association of the American Dairy, Food and Drug officials at the Hotel Pennsylvania April 28. It was pointed out that the available supply of fresh milk may soon be insufficient to provide for the steadily growing population in the Eastern States. In the case of a shortage, the situation would be particularly acute in large cities, such as New York, where the railroad facilities are taxed to accommodate the shipment of perishable foods.(Press, Apr.29)

Muscle Shoals — Further testimony was heard by the Senate agriculture committee in support of the Ford offer for the Muscle Shoals project.(Press, May 2.)

Tobacco Boycott — Members of a tobacco growers' commission, which will visit Europe in the hope of lifting the boycott which they say is now in force against the cooperative growers in the South and of making direct connections regarding the sale of tobacco in countries that have tobacco monopolies, reached New York last night. They will sail on Saturday. (Press, May 2.)

Western Fruit — A Portland, Oregon, dispatch to the press of Apr.29 says: "Oregon and Washington fruit is finding its way to London markets in increasing volume. Thousands of barrels of strawberries and raspberries, frozen at packing plants and moved in steamships having refrigeration space, was the record last year, and the demand this year has increased. Canned pears, sliced thin, are preferred in British markets, and great quantities of these have been ordered already for export from Columbia River and Puget Sound ports."

New Process For Wool — If the contentions of H.J.W.Bliss, director of research of the British Research Association for the Woolen and Worsted Industries, can be substantiated, the present scarcity of wool

will be remedied and the cost of certain grades of wool clothing will be lowered. Mr. Bliss...asserted that, as a result of experiments, it had been established that wool can be made into worsted yarn 20 per cent finer than hitherto possible....The British believe that if Bliss's reports are conclusive the new process will afford a way for providing lightweight cloths at prices which, because of the current shortage of fine wools, has been prohibitive. (Press, Apr.26.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Farm Products

May 2: New York Round White potatoes closed at $1.65 to $1.85 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities. Northern sacked Round Whites slightly weaker in Chicago at $1.00 to $1.25. Florida tomatoes, turning, wrapped, slightly stronger at $5.50 to $7.00 per six-basket carrier, repacked stock as high as $8.50 in St.Louis. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions 50¢ to $1.00 lower, ranging $1.50 to $2.00 per standard crate for U.S.No.1 grade; 90¢ to $1.00 f.o.b. Louisiana Klondike strawberries advanced 50¢ to $1.00 in midwestern markets, selling at $3.75 to $4.25 per 24-pint crate. Apple markets dull. New York Baldwins closed at $3 to $3.50 per barrel, top of $3.75 for best stock in Baltimore.

Chicago hog prices closed at $7.55 for the top and $7.20 to $7.50 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $8.25 to $11.75; butcher cows and heifers $3.65 to $10.25; feeder steers $5.75 to $9.75; light and medium weight veal calves $6.75 to $10.25; fat lambs $14.75 to $17; yearlings $12.25 to $15.25 and fat ewes $5.50 to $9.

Average grain prices quoted May 2,1924: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.14 to $1.32; No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.06 3/4 to $1.13; Kansas City $1.02 to $1.05, St. Louis $1.06. No.2 red winter Kansas City $1.08.to $1.09; St. Louis $1.09 to $1.11. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 79 1/2¢, Minneapolis 74 to 74 1/2¢. No.3 yellow St. Louis 79 1/2¢. Kansas City 73 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 1/2 to 49¢, St. Louis 49 1/2¢, Kansas City 49 1/2¢, Minneapolis 45 1/8 to 45 3/8¢.

Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter: New York 37¢, Philadelphia 37 1/2¢, Chicago 35 3/4¢, Boston 38¢.

Spot cotton down 20 points, closing at 29.78¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 26 points, closing at 29.70¢. (Prepared by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 2,	May 1,	May 2, 1923.
20 Industrials	91.68	92.12	98.05
20 R.R. stocks	81.48	81.63	85.29

(Wall Street Journal, May 3, 1924.)

DAILY DIGEST

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May 5, 1924.

Section 1

McNary-Haugen Bill — A Washington dispatch to the press of May 4 says: "Advocates of the McNary-Haugen Agricultural Export bill decided yesterday to seek aid of the President. In the House leaders of the 'farm bloc' began the circulation of petitions which will be transmitted to the White House early this week. These set forth that there is overwhelming sentiment in the farming regions for enactment of the bill, and urge that its passage be facilitated. Those back of the movement declared they hoped the President would give some indication that he favored the bill. The petitions declare that the depression in agricultural States is not confined to farming alone, but is gradually affecting every line of industry and commerce."

Wheat and Bread Prices — The big 1922 slump in wheat prices brought less than a 2 per cent decrease in the price of bread, the Federal Trade Commission declared to-day in a report on its investigation of the wheat flour milling industry. From January, 1919, to September, 1922, the price of flour in the Northwest decreased 33 per cent and in the Southwest 43 per cent, the report said. Wheat prices declined 55 and 50 per cent respectively, in the two districts, it added, but the decrease in bread cost was only 2 per cent except in Kansas City where a price war brought a 15 per cent drop. (Press, May 5)

Muscle Shoals — The Union Carbide Company, a subsidiary of the Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation of New York, to-day submitted a substitute offer for Muscle Shoals to Secretary Weeks, providing for a fifty-year lease on the property for which a minimum guarantee of $120,000,000 would be made and an agreement entered into to manufacture 40,000 tons of fixed nitrogen annually for use in fertilizer. According to the announcement of the bidding company, the new bid contemplates, in addition to the guarantee and fertilizer proposal, "the development of a manufacturing center at Muscle Shoals and the distribution of hydro-electric power throughout the South." (Press, May 5.)

Cotton Acreage — A Raleigh, N.C., dispatch to the press of May 4 says: "More cotton is being planted in North Carolina this year than ever before, according to estimates gathered by a local paper. It is estimated that the increase in acreage will be from 5 to 10 per cent more than last year. Cotton is being planted over a wider area of the State than ever before. Piedmont and western counties that have never gone into cotton production on any considerable scale before are making preparations for a big crop this year. Eastern counties, where the boll weevil has been prevalent, are restricting their acreage somewhat."

Section 2

Cooperative Marketing in the South

An editorial in Manufacturers Record for May 1 says: "From the tenor of several communications to the Manufacturers Record it appears that fear is spreading in agricultural circles in the South that the cooperative marketing system is being exploited for the financial profit of promoters in that line and to the detriment of the interests of the producers. These fears may be justified or may be entirely without foundation in fact, but realization seems spreading that the field offers tremendous possibilities for promoters and may prove a temptation to some to try to cultivate it."

Dawes' Report

In the opinion of Benjamin M. Anderson, economist of the Chase National Bank, the plan laid down by the Dawes' report constitutes an adequate basis for the solution of the reparation problem, "if loyally accepted and intelligently and courageously administered." With reference to two questions of policy it is important, in the belief of the Chase economist, that there should be an early crystallization of opinion. First, it must be emphasized that the proposed new bank of issue can and should immediately redeem its notes in gold or gold exchange. Second, it will not be nearly so difficult, as much current discussion assumes, to convert the mark payments made by the German Government under the plan into the sterling, franc and other currencies needed by the recipients of reparation payments, unless the problem is timidly handled. (Press, Apr.28.)

Farm Machinery

Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of The Philadelphia Ledger, says in the April 29 issue: "The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago has prepared a statistical exhibit of the affairs of 113 agricultural machinery and equipment companies in the country which is not particularly encouraging respecting the present status of the industry, but seems to offer considerable promise for the future. The industry has been living from hand to mouth for four years, each year expecting that the next would find the farmer back in the market. It now develops that, having despaired somewhat of domestic demand, the business has turned abroad with conspicuous success."

Fertilizer Prices

An editorial in American Agriculturist for April 26 says: "One of the bright spots on the farmer's horizon at the present time is the comparatively low price of commercial fertilizer, especially acid phosphate. Just why farmers are fortunate in having these material reductions this year is uncertain, unless it be that some of the big manufacturers and distributors are engaged in a price war. Anyway it is good to know that the price of the fertilizer to the farmer is the cheapest that it has been in years."

German Credit

A New York dispatch to the press of April 29 says: "Arrangements for a $5,000,000 German credit in the United States are being visualized by leaders in the copper industry as preliminary to greater buying of American metal for Central European consumption. It is said, however, that the relatively small amount

involved in the credit will not show immediate results in the copper trade, although the establishment of the credit is seen as the foundation for better sentiment respecting copper exports."

Livestock Outlook Referring to an address made April 24 by Charles Simpson, president of the Montana Stock Growers' Association, at the annual convention of that association, the Sioux City Live Stock Record for April 28 says: "Mr. Simpson so far departed from the usual, from the recounting of the woes of the stockman and the demands for corrections via the nature violation route, that the address, while lengthy, is given in full. Statements of Mr. Simpson in regard to railroads, stock yards, packers , commission men and bankers are such that they should be read in every section of the livestock producing country--in the corn feeding States no less than in the range countries. It is the first breaking away from the calamity bank-wagon that we have observed in these meetings of the past five years."

Millers' National Federation An editorial in The Northwestern Miller for April 30 says: "The action of the members of the Millers' National Federation last Friday in deciding to reorganize and reconstruct that organization is but another, and so far the most forceful, expression of the new spirit in milling. With the backing of the leading and largest milling concerns, without geographical or sectional distinction, there can be no doubt of the support of the rank and file of smaller units and the complete success of the plan."

Muscle Shoals An editorial in The Country Gentleman of May 3 says:"Chemists have been experimenting with hot steam and they have found a new method of fixing nitrogen that takes the Tennessee River project pretty much out of the fertilizer business....Vast quantities of power, such as are possible at Muscle Shoals, are not at all necessary for the fixation of nitrogen for fertilizers. In fact, the only nitrate plant now capable of operation in the Muscle Shoals development is already entirely obsolete. Nitrates could be made there--oh, yes; but at a cost practically equal to present market prices; and in such small quantities as to be negligible. The latest discoveries indicate that in the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen only a very modest amount of power is needed. The inventors say that when the new process is in full operation nitrates may be made cheaply almost anywhere and with steam power; no great dams and power houses will be necessary. Thus are upset the calculations of those who professed to see agricultural salvation tied up with Muscle Shoals. The project has great potentialities for southern agriculture, but it is in a wholly different direction. The Tennessee River is one of the nation's great power resources and it should be developed for its power. That is the primary thing. Once we've got the power it can be used for whatever purpose it is needed. Perhaps a small part of it might still be employed in the making of concentrated fertilizers. But there is no necessity for dedicating it to any particular purpose. Nothing will help agriculture more than continued industrial development--brought by the power of Muscle Shoals. Who should develop the

power? Henry Ford could do it if he would make the power available to all the people. But, once and forever, let's stop considering Muscle Shoals and cheap fertilizers as synonymous terms."

Packers and Stockyards

An editorial in the Sioux City Live Stock Record for April 30 says: "It need hardly be stated here that this paper, while its first concern is the livestock markets, stands four-square for the organized livestock exchanges. From the inception of the radical and one-sided agitation that led up to the enactment of the Packer and Stockyards law the editor of this paper has been opposed to the men who sired the idea, opposed to the agitation that led up to the Kenyon-Kendrick bill, and opposed to the result of the bill, the Packer and Stockyards law itself. Why have we opposed it? First and foremost our opposition has been because the declaration of the proponents of the measure, from its inception, was based upon an assumption and declaration in effect that stockyards companies, livestock exchanges and market papers were manned by a bunch of tricky and dishonest men--tricky and dishonest being used here instead of harsher terms. We are opposed to the law in its operation in that it opens a way for tricks in trade that the organized livestock exchange absolutely prhibits and provides penalties for in case any commission man or firm is caught at violations of its rules....."

Parcel Post Rates

How to get his produce to the city and make a living profit, is a problem that is perplexing the farmer to-day, because of the proposed legislation now before Congress to increase parcel post rates. Since the present parcel post rates went into effect, farmers by the thousands have been able to build up a nice little business with residents of towns and cities by supplying them with fruits and other foodstuffs such as butter and eggs. The prevailing postage rates enable the farmer to compete with the city merchant and in addition what the farmer had to offer for consumption was fresher and more desirable. The revenue derived from this source has lifted many a farm mortgage. It is estimated that there were approximately 2,000,000,000 parcel post packages mailed last year, out of which but 100,000,000 represented mail order business. With the increased postage in parcel post packages as proposed by the bills now before Congress, the farmer, it is said, is going to have a big part of this revenue cut off, as in order to compete with the city merchant, the increase in the postage must be paid by the shipper. This in turn would necessarily make the farmer's parcel post business unprofitable to cut deep into the profit he now realizes upon these transactions, so it can be readily seen how far reaching the effect of a parcel post increase will be in the rural districts. (Kansas City Daily Drovers Telegram, Apr.28.)

Textile Industry

The spirit of the present-day New England textile industry crystalized itself at the second session of the 116th semi-annual meeting of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, here to-day, in the form of a resolution formulating an earnest and serious "S.O.S." appeal to Congress for higher protection for American fabrics. Other resolutions urged upon Congress the strictest economy in appropriations, to the end of reducing the tax

burdens on business and industry, also declaring the French-Capper "Truth-in-Fabric" bill as now drawn impracticable, unworkable and frought with difficulties and dangers to the textile industry with no compensating benefit to the consuming public. (The Journal of Commerce, May 2.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended May 3, 1924: Stocker and feeder shipments from 12 important markets during the week ending April 25 were: Cattle and calves 47,491; hogs 10,775; sheep 12,650. In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets veal is $1 to $2 higher; lamb $2 to $3; mutton firm to $2 and pork loins $1 to $1.30 up.

Eastern potato markets barely steady. New York Round Whites closed at $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities. Northern sacked Round Whites firm in Chicago at $1.05 to $1.10. Florida Spaulding Rose 75¢ to $1.50 lower at $7 to $8 per double head barrel, top of $8.50 in Chicago; $6.00 f.o.b. Texas Bliss Triumphs steady at $5 to $5.50 sacked per 100 pounds in midwestern cities: mostly $3.75 f.o.b. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions declined 50¢ to $1., selling at $1.40 to $2.00 per standard crate for U.S No 1 grade; mostly 90¢ f.o.b. Florida tomatoes, turning, wrapped, stronger at $6 to $6.50 per six-basket carrier, top of $7 in New York. Cabbage markets stronger. Texas Flat and Round type sold at $70 to $80 bulk per ton in midwestern cities; mostly $45 f.o.b. Louisiana Klondike strawberries 50¢ to $1.00 higher, closing at $4 to $4.50 per 24-pint crate in city markets; $3.50 to $4.12 1/2 f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples sold generally at $3 to $3.50 per barrel, top of $3.75 in Baltimore.

Butter markets nervous and unsettled during the week, although steady and firm at close. Trading fairly active due more to free selling on part of receivers than to confidence on part of buyers. Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter to-day: New York 38¢, Chicago 36¢, Boston 38 1/2¢, Philadelphia 38¢.

Cheese markets generally steady. Prices in Wisconsin show little change this week. Wholesale prices at Wisconsin primary markets on May 2 were as follows: Single Daisies 17 1/2¢, Double Daisies 17¢, Longhorns 17 1/4¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 53 points during the week, closing at 29.72¢ per lb.

New York May future contracts declined 42 points, closing at 29.70¢.

Grain market advanced somewhat during week. At the close corn at Chicago was still about one cent above last week's close, while wheat was back to practically last week's level.

Quoted May 3,1924: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.13 1/2 to $1.31 1/2, No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.07 1/2 to $1.13, St. Louis $1.06, No.2 red winter Chicago $1.06 1/2, St. Louis $1.12. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 77 1/2¢, St. Louis 78 1/2 to 79¢, No.3 white corn St. Louis 78 1/2 to 79¢, No.3 white oats Chicago 48 3/4, St. Louis 49 1/2¢. (Prepared by Bu.Agr.Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 3,	May 2,	May 3, 1923.
20 Industrials	91.93	91.68	96.30
20 R.R.stocks	81.51	81.48	84.22

(Wall St. Jour.,May 5.)

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May 6, 1924.

Section 1

Farm Relief — Farm relief legislation is to be given right of way in the Senate after the tax and remaining appropriation bills are out of the way under a decision reached yesterday at a conference of Senate Republicans. In order to speed the program with a view to adjournment before the Republican national convention in Cleveland it was decided to hold night sessions, beginning to-day. The conference did not declare for any particular farm relief plan, the resolution adopted providing merely that such legislation should have right of way later on. Friends of the McNary-Haugen bill are preparing to press that measure, but there is a sharp division in the Senate as to just what form farm legislation should take. (Press, May 6.)

The McNary-Haugen Farm Relief bill as approved by the House agriculture committee was laid before President Coolidge for study to-day by Representative Haugen. House leaders hope to obtain within a few days an expression of the President's views on the measure. He never has expressed himself regarding the bill but has at various times been reported as doubtful of the efficacy of the measure as a means of providing aid for farmers and also as to its economic soundness. Representative Haugen will confer with the President as soon as the latter has completed his study of the bill and the committee report. (Press, May 6.)

Textile Industry — Investigation of the "prolonged depression" in the American cotton textile industry would be made by the tariff commission under a resolution introduced by Senator Walsh, Massachusetts. (Press, May6)

Land Grants — The Senate public lands committee heard witnesses on the proposed investigation of the land grants to the Northern Pacific railroad. (Press, May 6.)

Muscle Shoals — Marked interest was shown by members of Congress to-day in the latest offer of the Union Carbide Company for Muscle Shoals, and it was readily agreed that this will have a highly important bearing on the final disposition of that waterpower. (Press, May 6.)

Wheat Prices — German election results and talk of enlarged German credit facilities in the United States were among the reasons given to explain wheat price upturns which took place to-day. (Press, May 6.)

Barkley Bill — Utilizing its new rules for the first time, the House, by a vote of 194 to 181, discharged the House committee on commerce from further consideration of the Barkley bill to abolish the railroad labor board and brought it before the House. (Press, May 6.)

Section 2

Agricultural Situation in the Northwest

Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of The Philadelphia Ledger says in the May 5 issue: "The farmer considers nature fitful and fickle in bestowing her favors, but on the average her beneficences are impartial if one leaves out of consideration those scattered areas of the far West in which drought and hot winds, tornadoes, hail and grasshoppers are routine to their season. This year nature promises to take from those that have and give to those that have not. The best prospects for the grain crops point to the Northwest and the far West, where agriculture has been most despondent, while misfortune of the seasons is promised for those territories that have been comparatively free from distress."

American Ships for American Flour

An editorial in The Northwestern Miller for April 30 says: "....If it can be conclusively shown, as the result of a thorough study of actual conditions that the application of section 28 of the Jones act to both flour and wheat will not cut down the volume of America's flour export trade, then the Shipping Board is justified in insisting that this clause shall become effective. At present the evidence is all the other way. Until the facts can be thoroughly studied, the Shipping Board, for its own sake, ought to postpone definite action; its decision in the matter ought to be based on exact and thorough knowledge of what the effect will be on the total volume of flour tonnage available for the American merchant marine."

Banking and Farming

An editorial in The Field for May says: "When farmers and bankers alike begin to realize their interdependence the future of American agriculture takes on a brighter hue. The farmer has always known that he needed the support of the banker, but it is only recently that the banker has so openly professed his need of the farmer. A good omen for the creation of a better understanding between the two is the recent publication by the American Bankers' Association of a booklet on 'Principles and Progress in Cooperative Marketing of Farm Products.' For, says the preface, 'Bankers have a vital interest in agricultural problems and in agricultural prosperity. At all times and under all circumstances the banker and the farmer are partners--in adversity as well as in prosperity....'"

Cotton Market

A New Orleans dispatch to the press of May 5 says: "Last week was a period of waiting in the cotton market. The May position has to a large extent been liquidated, at least in so far as this market is concerned, and the July day of reckoning is yet too far off to create undue uneasiness. There is no denying the fact that there is a considerable short interest in that month, and the rapid falling away in the certificated stocks, both here and in New York, and the firmness with which spots are held in all of the southern markets, are giving traders in that category more or less cause for anxiety."

Electricity Rates

An editorial in New England Homestead for April 26 says: "Lower prices for electricity in rural districts seem to be on the way....The Homestead's contention is that all the receipts and expenses for electric service, both country and town, should be pooled.

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Then whatever loss is incurred by lower rates in country will be compensated for by the revenue from city consumers. It is of the largest social-economic-political importance that the country have the lowest possible rate for power, instead of being forever at a disadvantage with the cities in this respect. Now that this principle has been recognized by California, it will be easier to secure its recognition right here in New England."

Farm Implement Prices

An editorial in Southern Agriculturist for May 1 says: "Implement manufacturers continue to complain of the attitude taken towards them by the farmers. Some of them, at least, feel that the farmers are not buying farm implements as they used to largely because they feel that implement prices are too high, and that there is a general feeling in the country that implement makers and dealers are profiteering on the farmers."

Farmers' Duty

An editorial in Hoard's Dairyman for May 2 says:"'Farmers should produce all the people need to eat and to wear. It is their duty to do this.' This remark was made by a citizen who had been reading about the cooperative movement among farmers and their effort to regulate production so they will get fair prices for their products. Duty, as used by this man, means that the farmer has a moral obligation to the community to produce all the food and clothing it needs without regard to the needs of himself and his own family. This is a mistaken conception, but is somewhat universal as food and clothing are the fundamental requirements of every human person. Other things he can do without, but without these he can not live, and life is the first law of human nature. None-the-less it is a wrong statement and puts on one class an unfair moral obligation that is not required of other classes. It is the farmer's business, to be sure, to produce these commodities, but if he can not receive a price for them that will pay a reasonable compensation for his services he has no moral obligation to do this kind of work and he will not so devote himself. It is no more his duty to produce food and clothing for the nation than it is the duty of the man who lives in the city. It is one thing to be engaged in business and another thing to perform a duty. It is the duty of every citizen to support his country when attacked by an enemy; it is the duty of every individual to give a fair day's service to his employer; but to say it is the farmer's duty to produce food and clothing for the nation is a misconception of duty. The farmer has been too generous. He has overproduced and the low prices of many of our agricultural commodities are directly attributed to overproduction. If the farmer is wise, he will produce less of all commodities which are not paying him a fair price. This is what he should do and what eventually he will be forced to do. No one can engage in any kind of business and sustain a loss year after year without going into bankruptcy."

Freight Rates in Canada

As a result of lower freight rates in Canada shippers there have saved $100,000,000 that they would have expended in the last three years had their rates been the same as those of the United

States, according to A. J. Hills, assistant to S. J. Hungerford, Vice President of the Canadian National Railways. (Press,May.3)

Maximum Production

An editorial in Chicago Dairy Produce for April 29 says: "We do not agree with the idea of limiting production of food products to keep up prices. We believe the best interests of producers, dealers and consumers are concerned with maximum production and correct publicity to increase consumption that informs consumers of crop volume, reasonable of prices and food values. We believe in advertising, and that advertising is our best and greatest selling and buying agency....."

Milling-in-Bond

An editorial in The Southwestern Miller for April 29 says: "Cuba has inadvertently raised a new question of concern to southwestern millers in connection with the milling-in-bond privilege enjoyed by millers of the United States along Canadian border points. The Cuban Government, which grants preferential duties to the mills of the United States, is permitting flour milled in bond in the United States from Canadian wheat to enter the ports of its country on the same basis as the flour made by United States mills from domestic wheat."

Parcel Post Rates

An editorial in The Wisconsin Agriculturist for May 3 says: "At a recent meeting of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau a resolution was passed declaring the Federation as directly opposed to increased rates for parcel post and fourth class matter. Members of the Bureau hold that since the farmer markets part of his produce through parcel post, he will have to stand for the greater part of increased revenue by receiving a smaller net return for his product. There can be no question in this regard and no argument as to who pays parcel post charges. Farmers use parcel post more than any other class of people, not only for the purpose of selling their products, but they are large buyers of goods that come to them through the parcel post and if parcel post rates are to be raised from 5 to 15 cents a pound the farmer is the man who is going to pay the raise. When he sells produce from his farm and it is shipped by parcel post he receives a certain price for it delivered, consequently he pays the postage. When he buys goods they come to him by parcel post and he pays the postage. In other words, the man or the manufacturer from whom he buys adds the postage to the price that the farmer pays for the goods."

Prosperity in Oregon

An editorial in Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman for April 25 says: "The chamber of commerce at Portland,Ore., has raised a fund of $300,000 in cold, hard cash to be spent in the next two years in developing the prosperity of the people of the State of Oregon. This money will not be spent in Portland for factories and houses and city improvements. It will all be spent for three purposes: first, to attract settlers to Oregon lands; second, to furnish these settlers with information about the methods of farming and the crops which are practical in Oregon; third, to aid the farmers to get decent prices for the crops which they raise."

Wheat Tariff

An editorial in The Price Current-Grain Reporter for April 30 says: "The increased tariff experiment on wheat has failed to increase the price to the American farmer, just another step in a series of well intentioned, but usually fruitless efforts to artificially tinker with the prices of farm products.... Farmers and their friends will find that price fixing and tariff advances are vain expedients and that it is through better methods of planting, raising, harvesting, cleaning of grain at its source and in such practices that the return of the industry to its normal and right position will be gained."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 5: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.55 for the top and $7.20 to $7.50 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.40 to $11.75; butcher cows and heifers $3.65 to $10.25; feeder steers $5.75 to $9.75; light and medium weight veal calves $6.75 to $10.25; fat lambs $14.75 to $17; yearlings $12.25 to $15.25 and fat ewes $5.50 to $9.

Eastern potato markets fairly steady. New York Round Whites closed at $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites steady at $1.10 to $1.25 in Chicago. Florida Spaulding Rose 50¢ to $1.50 lower at $7.50 to $8.50 per double head barrel in leading markets; $6 f.o.b. Florida tomatoes, turning wrapped, steady to stronger, selling generally at $5.50 to $6.50 per six basket carrier, top of $7.50 in Pittsburgh; repacked stock bringing as high as $9 in Chicago. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions 25 to 75¢ lower at $1.50 to $1.75 per standard crate for U.S.No.1 grade; mostly 90¢ f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage brought $4 to $5.50 per barrel crate in a few markets; $4 f.o.b. Louisiana Klondike strawberries stronger closing at $4 to $5 per 24-pint crate in city wholesale markets; $3.30 to $3.50 f.o.b. Apple markets about steady.

Average closing grain prices quoted May 5: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.13 to $1.31 1/2. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.06 to $1.14 1/4; Kansas City $1.01 to $1.12; St. Louis $1.06. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.11 to $1.12; Kansas City $1.07 to $1.08. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 79 1/2 to 80 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn Kansas City 74 to 74 1/2¢; St.Louis 78 to 79¢; No.3 white corn St. Louis 78 1/2 to 79¢; Kansas City 73 1/4¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 46 1/2 to 48 1/2¢; Kansas City 48 1/2 to 49¢; St. Louis 49 1/4¢.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 38 1/2¢; Chicago 37¢; Philadelphia 39¢; Boston 39¢.

Spot cotton down 8 points, closing at 29.59¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 5 points, closing at 29.65¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 5,	May 3,	May 5, 1923.
20 Industrials	92.23	91.93	96.73
20 R.R.stocks	81.58	81.51	84.01

(Wall St. Jour., May 6.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 7, 1924.

Section 1

Japanese Immigration — The provision of the immigration bill for Japanese exclusion was agreed upon by Senate and House conferees last night to be effective July 1, when other provisions of the bill become operative, and was met immediately with indications at the White House that the arrangement was unsatisfactory to the President. In reaching this agreement the conferees adopted the effective date stipulated in the bill as passed by the House, and receded from the Senate position calling for operation of the Asiatic exclusion section immediately the bill became law. It was evident, however, that in deferring the date they did not go as far as had been wished by the chief executive. (Press, May 7.)

Land Grants — The Senate public lands committee ordered a favorable report on the resolution for a congressional inquiry into the whole subject of land grants to the Northern Pacific Railway Company. (Press, May 7.)

Textile Industry Investigation — After conferences with southern senators agreement was reached under which passage will be sought at an early day of the resolution of Senator Walsh, of Massachusetts, for an inquiry into the depression in the textile industry. (Press, May 7.)

Truth-in-Fabrics Bill — The truth-in-fabrics bill was opposed before the House commerce committee by representatives of New England consumers' leagues. (Press, May 7.)

Boll Weevil Problem — Commenting upon the resolution introduced in the Senate on Monday by Senator Walsh calling for an investigation by the Tariff Commission of the "prolonged depression" in the American cotton and textile industries, Henry H. Royce, vice president of the New York Cotton Exchange, said yesterday in a statement that he believes that such an investigation would "emphasize one thing which the New York Cotton Exchange has been trying for years to bring home to Congress--the necessity for the Government taking up the fight against the boll weevil throughout the entire cotton belt. Any thorough investigation of the present depression in the textile industry," he said, "must disclose the fact that it is attributable in large measure to the subnormal crops of cotton in the past few years, caused, in turn, largely by the ravages of the weevil. The short crops of 1921,1922 and 1923 wiped out what reserve there was and sent prices soaring....."(Press, May 7.)

Section 2

Advance in Wheat

Advance in wheat during latter part of last week was attributed to commission house absorption and favorable prospects for passage of McNary-Haugen measure, this being considered the real factor in trading. Statistics suggest the July 1 world's carryover to be around 340,000,000 bushels, or an excess of normal of about 100,000,000 bushels. Some parts of Northwest, notably northern North Dakota, report poor seeding conditions. Upturn is likely temporary, as large stocks are still unmarketed and in farmers' hands. (Wall St. Jour.,May 6.)

Agricultural Situation in the Northwest

A St. Paul dispatch to the Wall Street Journal of May 5 says: "Despite the handicaps under which the farmer is laboring and conservatism aggravated by the large number of small bank embarrassments, northwest trade prospects for this year are viewed optimistically by Twin Cities business leaders. It is believed that the situation of agriculture will be improved materially in the next six months with a resultant stimulation of trade generally. Following a survey of the northwest trade situation, Vice President W. P. Kenney, traffic director of the Great Northern Railway, said: ....'The northwest territory is so largely dependent on favorable agricultural conditions that it is gratifying to learn that the condition of the soil never was better, and that with ordinarily good weather conditions the seeding will be from two to three weeks ahead of last year. While the propaganda for less wheat raising has had its effect, estimated to the extent of a reduction of from 10 to 15 per cent in the acreage to be planted to spring wheat in this territory, it will be made up in other grains and diversified farming activities that will probably be more productive of profit to the farmer.....'"

Burtness Bill

Referring to the Burtness bill recently introduced in the House requiring millers to show on the outer package the kind of wheat used in the manufacture of the flour shipped in interstate commerce,an editorial in American Miller for May 1 says: "The penalty for failure to comply is a fine of $5,000, or one or two years in prison, or both fine and imprisonment. Thus the failure to observe this proposed flour label law is punished with the same severity as is provided for serious crimes. We have not seen a copy of this bill and do not know its exact phraseology, but if it means only the larger classifications of wheat, the Bureau of Chemistry has already ruled on this point in connection with the Pure Food and Drugs Act. Its rulings cover cases where flour is improperly labeled as to the kind of wheat used. If the purpose of the bill is to include grades or varieties of wheat, it simply means chaos. Millers can not always obtain the same kind, class or grade of wheat."

Cattle Outlook

Outlook for cattle industry is better than it has been since slump in 1920. Expected decrease in hog production should aid feeders by reducing the demand for corn and lowering its price. As flood of cheap pork to market falls off, demand for beef should increase. Gain in consumption of beef is forecast now as a natural

reaction from the recent excessive stimulation of pork production, which brought about a situation that makes heavy shrinkage inevitable in the hog industry. Beef cattle producers are more hopeful than for several years. Market prices of cattle are improving, and keen bidding for feeder stock is in prospect because the corn supply promises to continue large and the drift out of hog production will necessitate more marketing of corn through cattle. Movement of cattle to feedlots has already increased. (Wall St.Jour., May 6.)

Commodity Prices A New York dispatch to the press of May 5 says: "A further decline in the general level of commodity prices in April was revealed by the publication of Dun's index to-day. On May 1 this index stood at 53 per cent above that of 1913. This compares with 58 per cent above the pre-war on February 1 and 60 per cent above pre-war on May 1 of last year. The present figure is the lowest since November, 1922.....While there has been much irregularity of movement as between different groups of commodities, it is significant that all of Dun's seven groups are, with one exception, lower than a year ago. The exception is furnished by meat products, which group is unchanged on the twelve months. The declines in the other groups range from 2.7 per cent in breadstuffs and other foods to 8.3 per cent in the miscellaneous group. Clothing prices are off 3.1 per cent; those of metals have fallen 8.1."

England's Imports The British Board of Trade statement, referring to the increase of 28,018,024 pounds in imports into England during the first quarter of 1924, an increase of 10 1/3 per cent over the same period in 1923, points out that the greater part of the rise in importations was due to raw materials and food. Imports of cotton during the quarter amounted to 4,641,763 centals, as against 3,891,114 in 1923. Imports of sugar were 8,625,217 hundredweight, as against 6,838,867 last year, and imports of tea rose to 129,295,993 pounds, against 120,822,560. (Press, May 5.)

Julius Barnes on Agricultural Distress Julius Barnes, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, referred to the work of the Agricultural Bureau of that organization, in an address before its twelfth annual meeting, May 6. He said in part: "Under the Chamber ideal of accuracy of facts we have been able to define the areas of relative agricultural distress. We have engaged in supplementing and strengthening the work of special organizations in the South for the control of the boll weevil damage. We are endeavoring to aid effective remedies in the distressed single crop areas of the Northwest, where because of unfavorable climatic conditions and because of neglect to follow the matured advice of their own agricultural authorities, there has developed a condition which all sections of American industry should try to improve. We are encouraged to believe, however, that the greater portion of American agriculture is in a healthful and sound condition and remedial efforts should be directed at the actual areas of need and not broadened into general statements regarding all agriculture. Broad statements, for instance, that American grain grown in surplus quantities must sell

inevitably at the world price are proven inaccurate by the fact that month by month domestic consumption continued in America for many months past at a price level on wheat ten, twenty and thirty cents above the world basis; American corn to-day sells at the Atlantic seaboard at almost the full price of freight plus full duty protection over its nearest competitor, the Argentine; American oats sell. to-day in many sections of the United States at full duty over Canadian oats, their nearest competitor. This condition, manifestly a great aid in farm returns in America bases primarily on the support of future trading markets, a unique American device which gives ready effect to the investment and speculative purchasing power of America. Minimizing not at all the distress which exists in certain areas, we can still stamp as inaccurate and injurious to American farm credit and farm future, general statements that agriculture has grown progressively worse when the Department of Agriculture records the aggregate value of farm production the past three years thus: 1921-$12,402,000,000; 1922-$14,310,000,000; 1923-$18,064,000,000."

Lessened Production

An editorial in The Commercial and Financial Chronicle for May 3 says: "We have spoken before of the plan for creating scarcity to enhance price. That, we think, is contrary to our best economics...The farmer who listens to these appeals to lessen production must perceive that he delegates power but does not receive it. He knows, as he plows through the hours of a long day, that nothing comes down from the so-called cooperative organization above him which will minimize his own effort. Unless he works in the old way he will have no crop to gather. Again, he knows every foot of his own soil (he may have had help, previously, from the analysis of a soil expert), knows what each field will produce best--and it makes no difference what the whole outside world does, this is his chief guide. He can not afford to ignore these facts in the interest of some vague resolve by a loosely woven organization which would increase the price of one or many of his products. To listen to these pleas and resolves would be equivalent to a denial of his own patrimony."

McNary-Haugen Bill

An editorial in Farm Implement News for May 1 says: "In his talk to the tractor engineers of the Society of Automotive Engineers in Chicago, April 24, Cyrus McCormick,Jr., of the International Harvester Co., discussed conditions and prospects as relating particularly to the business with farmers. In his opinion the unbalanced conditions of the present are due in part to the fact that our surplus of agricultural products has to be sold in a depressed foreign market, and in part to domestic labor conditions and costs, which make the prices of manufactured articles out of line with the prices of farm products. Some day in the future the normal relation will be re-established but how soon is uncertain, he said. Proponents of the McNary-Haugen bill, now pending in Congress, do not disagree with this view, but they say this wasteful and unjust attrition of our farming population, this grinding between the upper and nether millstones can be arrested by using the same means with which we are protecting many classes of manufactured products and domestic labor from the competition of low-cast foreign manufacturing and low-waged foreign labor. The McNary-Haugen bill, they contend, will extend the

principle of protection so as to complete the triangle, one side of which is manufacturing, one side labor and the third agriculture In view of the fact that the bill sets up no costly new machinery of distribution to increase the selling cost, and that it puts out of business no present factor, except possibly the speculator, conditions under the McNary-Haugen bill could not be worse and might be much better; so why not try it? So long as this country is committed to a policy of protection, so long as it continues to thrive under such a policy, there can be no valid objection to making that protection cover the great primary producers of food as well as the producers of manufactured products and the laboring groups."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 7: Eastern Round White potatoes sold at $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites $1.10 to $1.25 in Chicago. Florida Spaulding Rose mostly $7.50 to $8 per double head barrel, top of $8.50 in Boston; $6 f.o.b. Florida tomatoes, turning, wrapped, best $5.50 to $7 per six basket carrier, repacked stock $8 to $10 in midwestern markets. Texas yellow onions, Bermuda, U.S.No.1 grade generally $1.40 to $1.75 per standard crate in consuming centers; mostly 90¢ f.o.b. South Carolina asparagus, green bunched, $6.50 to $8 per crate in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. Louisiana Klondike strawberries $4 to $4.50 per 24-pint crate in leading markets; $2.70 to $3.22 1/2 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage $4.50 to $5.50 per barrel crate in Philadelphia and Baltimore; $4 f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples sold generally at $3 to $3.75 per barrel. Northwestern Extra Fancy Winesaps $2 to $2.35 per box.

Chicago hog prices closed at $7.50 for the top, bulk of sales $7.50 to $7.55; medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $11;65; butcher cows and heifers $3.75 to $10.25; feeder steers $5.75 to $9.75; light and medium weight veal calves $7 to $10.25; fat lambs $14.75 to $17; yearlings $12.25 to $15.25, and fat ewes $5.50 to $9.25.

Spot cotton up 16 points, closing at 29.75¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 24 points, closing at 29.89¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 6,	May 5,	May 5, 1923.
20 Industrials	92.24	92.23	96.73
20 R.R. stocks	81.71	81.58	84.01

(Wall St. Jour., May 7.).

DAILY DIGEST

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May 8, 1924.

Section 1

Truth-in-Fabrics Bill — Gray Silver, representing the American Farm Bureau Federation, urged the House commerce committee to report favorably the French bill which would make the branding of fabrics as to their wool or silk content compulsory. (Press, May 8.)

Muscle Shoals — An attempt will be made at an executive session to-day of the Senate agricultural committee to set a date for terminating the Muscle Shoals hearings. Senator Harrison informed the committee yesterday he would oppose adjournment of Congress until the Senate voted on disposition of Muscle Shoals. (Press, May 8.)

Agricultural Implement Industry — A Chicago dispatch to the press of May 7 says: "Improvement in the agricultural implement industry is shown in the annual report, issued tonight, of the International Harvester Company. The profits were nearly double those of 1922."

Irrigation by the Rio Grande — The House passed Senate bill appropriating $20,000 and authorizing the President to appoint a commission to cooperate with Mexico in planning for the equitable distribution of waters of the Rio Grande for irrigation purposes. (Press, May 8.)

Japanese Immigration — Responding to White House insistence, conferees on the immigration bill reconsidered their previous action on Japanese exclusion and will report a provision to make Japanese exclusion effective March 1, 1925, with an understanding that, meantime, a formal abrogation of the gentlemen's agreement will be negotiated and a treaty entered into, to be approved by the Senate. (Press, May 8.)

Leather Substitutes — An Atlantic City dispatch to the press of May 7 says: "Insisting that 'nothing takes the place of leather,' members of the National Tanners' Council, in conference at the Traymore here to-day, planned Nation-wide publicity to prove their claim and retrieve business lost through the introduction of substitutes."

Section 2

Agricultural Conditions in the Northwest

Ralph Budd, president of the Great Northern, has just completed a survey of conditions in the northwest territory served by that railroad. Everywhere he finds evidence that farmers are doing for themselves the precise things that politicians advocate that the Government do for them. There has been more diversification than ever before, thrift is genuine and business very largely has been reduced to a cash basis. He finds that only a small part of the territory is beset by the real distress that is so frequently described in discussing conditions in the Northwest. (Press, May 7.)

Air Mail Service

The announcement that the Post Office Department will maintain after July 1 a regular air mail service from New York to San Francisco on a schedule of about 30 hours each way was made by Colonel Paul Henderson, Second Assistant Postmaster General, in an address before the Transportation group meeting at the annual convention of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States on May 6. (Chamber of Commerce, Press Service.)

Bankers and Farmers

An editorial in Farm Machinery and Hardware for May 1 says: "Reports from many agricultural sections prove that, as a rule, the more progressive type of banker is making a strenuous effort to get the farmers to reform their agricultural methods. An item in a recent bulletin issued by the Irving Bank-Columbia Trust Co. of New York City, states: 'Bankers and business men of the State of Arkansas have warned farmers against the danger of planting too much cotton at the expense of food and feed crops. Several banks in Alabama announced that in future they will refuse to loan money to farmers to buy feed after the year 1924. They say they have learned from experience that the farmers who never buy feedstuffs are out of debt and have money in the banks. A bank in Mississippi has been circularizing farmers of its territory on the advantage of producing food, feed, meat, milk and eggs, and at the same time getting more cotton from a smaller acreage. These views are said to be typical of the attitude of most of the progressive bankers and business men throughout the whole South.'"

Cash Basis for Agriculture

Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of The Philadelphia Ledger, says in the May 6 issue: "Out of the present agricultural situation there may grow a reform that will make the recent distress of the farmer worth while economically, if not from the point of view of the farmer himself. That reform will have to do with the destruction of the philosophy that makes a farmer constantly spend the income of the future and constantly remain involved in current indebtedness. Throughout the Middle West there is a growing tendency toward putting agriculture on a cash basis. This is particularly true in the Northwest. The development is due in part to the honest intention of the farmer to avoid the profligacies of the past, and in part to the conclusion of various businesses and industries in agricultural communities that they have gone too far in extending credit to the farmer and encouraging him to create a lien against the future to finance current purchases. The best illustration of this is found in the experience of the lumber dealers in the Northwest. There has been a growing tendency among the rural lumber yard

to put the business on a cash basis. Those yards are now carrying more of farm paper than they know what to do with. The result is a considerable decline in sales but larger profits and some reasonable liquidity of business. Of course, this does not help materially in liquidating frozen accounts, but it avoids accumulation of them....It has become the habit in most rural communities for merchants to begin advancing credit to farmers in the early winter and to continue to finance them, on the theory that the bill would be paid out of the next year's crop. Of course, the rural merchant can afford this only by charging prices considerably in excess of what would be necessary on a cash basis, and sufficiently high to compensate for the annual average losses that must be written off....."

Cotton Market

Theo. Price, in Commerce and Finance for May 7, says, in part: "The semi-annual meeting of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers held in Boston last week was a rather melancholy gathering. In his opening speech, Mr. Robert Amory, the president of the Association, asserted that 'there has been no overproduction of cotton goods, but rather too much capacity for the present quantity of cotton available.' He deplored the unwillingness of consumers to buy cotton goods at a parity with the present prices of cotton and suggested that the maladjustment might be remedied by giving wide publicity to the increased cost of producing cotton under present conditions. Another speaker appealed for higher tariff rates that would protect the New England manufacturers of fine goods against the competition of Lancashire. The relatively high wage scale that prevails in New England was also discussed, although any organized attempt to bring about a reduction was disclaimed. The report of the Federal Trade Commission upon 'future' trading in New York was also debated, but the weight of opinion seems to be against the recommendation that cotton at a few southern points should be made deliverable upon the New York contract. There is much to be said on both sides of this question, but there seems to be but little likelihood that an innovation so radical will be voluntarily agreed to as it would involve a very drastic reorganization of the methods at present in vogue. Meantime the market is passive as it awaits news of the new crop and the complete exhaustion of old crop supplies."

Farm Supplies

An editorial in American Agriculturist for May 3 says: "One of the chief troubles with farming is that the farmer must sell all of his products at wholesale prices and buy all of his supplies at retail. There is one way to partially beat this unfair system, and that is to raise more and buy less supplies for the farm house. More and more farmers are giving attention to what their farm can supply toward meeting their own needs, and it is surprising what a lot can be done along this line when a real effort is made."

Immigration and Agriculture

An editorial in Farm, Stock and Home for May 1 says: "Whatever the effect on agriculture, the policy of still further restricting our immigration is practically certain of adoption.

From the standpoint of the ultimate good of the United States, it is difficult to successfully argue against this course....Restricted immigration will undoubtedly increase, or hold at present prices, the general level of wages. This will temporarily add to the burden of the farmers, not only in higher wages for their hired men, but higher costs of what they must buy and also provide fewer mouths to feed. What is the answer? Getting along with less hired labor, farming on a scale adapted to the size of the farm family. Produce more to the acres cultivated, thereby reducing cost of production. The necessity of cutting down on hired help will tend to reduce the total production, even though more is grown per acre, so that selling prices of farm products will gradually approach parity with the retail prices of manufactured goods. Higher wages, that restricted immigration will maintain, will continue to draw workers from the farm and change them from food producers to food consumers, which will tend to offset the loss of immigrants as consumers. We would have preferred to have had the restriction of immigration postponed a few years, and not have had a still further readjustment forced on agriculture at a time when it is so burdened with difficulties and difficult problems, but as this is not to be, the condition must be met."

Miller's National Federation

Referring to the recent reorganization of the Millers National Federation, an editorial in American Miller for May 1 says. "It is a recognition of the need which has been growing since 1917, of being prepared to meet emergencies as they arise. The old organization served very well in former days as a link between millers and millers' organizations. But Government has grown so complex and is likely to affect the millers' interests at so many points that in self-defense millers must have an ambassador, so to speak, at the Capitol. For besides the Senate and the House, before which are fully 50 bills at the present time touching the industry, other Government agencies like the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Shipping Board, the Tariff Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, the various departments and bureaus and all likely to take action at any time that may help or hurt the milling business."

Terminal Elevator Merger

An editorial in Modern Miller for May 3 says: "The merger of terminal elevators at Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City will not stay down. It is freely mentioned in Chicago that a corporation to take over terminal elevators is in process of formation and that banks are ready to finance the project. In the opinion of some men 'it will go through.' The terminal elevators have had hard sledding the past few years. Changes in the grain trade have brought about new problems in terminal storage. Five firms in Chicago are mentioned as interested, but they have given out no definite information and are probably not in a position to do so. Whether the McNary-Haugen bill has influenced action as a necessity our readers may draw their own conclusions. But the story is still very much alive."

Wool Trade

In its New England letter the First National Bank of Boston says: "The wool trade has come to a critical point in the year's operations. Shearing is about to commence generally in the West, and with probably not over 20,000,000 pounds of wool contracted for

up to date there are still well over 200,000,000 pounds to be marketed by the growers. These wools presently will be pressing upon the market, although the growers are well supported this year by their local banks. Meanwhile, the wool merchant has no large surplus stocks of wool on hand, and the money reasonably cheap is inclined to buy the new clip freely. Up to the present he has had little encouragement from the manufacturers, which is quite in contrast with the situation obtaining a year ago, when the manufacturers had done an exceptionally large business and the fever to buy raw materials became contagious." (Live Stock Markets, May 1.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 7: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.60 for the top and $7.30 to $7.55 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.25 to $11.65; butcher cows and heifers $3.75 to $10.25; feeder steers $5.75 to $9.75; veal calves $7.25 to $10.50. Fat lambs and yearlings $15 to $17.25 and $12.25 to $15.25, respectively, and fat ewes $5.75 to $9.50.

Eastern Round White potatoes steady at $1.65 to $1.85 sacked per 100 pounds. Florida tomatoes turning, wrapped, steady to stronger at $5.50 to $7 per six-basket carrier in leading markets, repacked stock $9 to $10. in Chicago. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions irregular closing at $1.40 to $1.75 per standard crate for U.S.No.1 grade in city markets; mostly $1 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage $4.25 to $5 per barrel crate in Philadelphia and Baltimore; $4 f.o.b. Louisiana strawberries, Klondike, slightly stronger at $3.75 to $4.25 per 24-pint crate in city markets; $3.05 to $3.72 1/2 f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples steady at $3. to $3.75 per barrel in eastern markets.

Closing wholesale prices at 92 score butter to-day: New York 38¢, Boston 38 1/2¢, Chicago 36¢, Philadelphia 39¢.

Average grain prices quoted May 7: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.14 to $1.33; No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.06 3/4, Kansas City $1.04 to $1.09, St. Louis $1.06 to $1.08; No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.12 to $1.13, Kansas City $1.05; No.2 yellow corn Chicago 79 1/4¢, Kansas City 75 to 76¢; No.3 yellow corn St. Louis 77 1/2 to 78¢; No.3 white corn St. Louis 78 to 79¢; No.2 white corn Kansas City 74 3/4 to 75¢; No.3 white oats Chicago 48 to 49¢, St. Louis 49¢, Kansas City 48 3/4¢.

Spot cotton down 4 points, closing at 29.71¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 16 points, closing at 30.05¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 7,	May 6,	May 7, 1923.
20 Industrials	92.47	92.24	95.41
20 R.R. stocks	81.88	81.71	80.37

(Wall St. Jour., May 8.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 9, 1924.

Section 1

Farm Relief

Formal assurance was given last night in the Senate by administration leaders that opportunity would be given for adequate consideration of "some farm relief measure" before Congress adjourns. The decision of a recent Republican party conference that a farm relief measure be taken up immediately after the revenue bill, Senator Watson said, had not been altered. Declarations of the administration spokesmen were made when Senator Norris suggested definite assurance be given those interested in farm relief legislation; adjournment would not be taken until some one of the several measures already presented had been considered. (Press, May 9.)

Muscle Shoals

S. Cressy Morrison, representing the Union Carbide Company, submitted a new bid for the Muscle Shoals project and explained its provisions. Proponents of the Ford offer failed to get an agreement as to time for closing the public hearings.(Press, May 9.)

Farmers' Taxes

The Senate adopted an amendment authorizing refund of taxes paid by farmers' or other mutual casualty insurance companies under the revenue laws of 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1921, but subject to the limitations provided by such laws. (Press, May 9.)

Food for German Relief

Under the terms of a bill introduced by Senator Howell, a loan of $25,000,000 would be authorized to the Government of Germany to be used for purchasing within the United States grain and other food supplies for the relief of destitute women and children. (Press, May 9.)

Reforestation

The Senate adopted an amendment to encourage reforestation by permitting deductions from gross incomes of expenses incurred in reforestation. (Press, May 9.)

Cotton in France

A Paris dispatch to the press of May 8 says: "France must adopt a policy of intensifying cotton production in her colonies in order to offset the predicted reduction in American cotton exports, Minister of the Colonies Jean Fabry declared to-day in an address at the Colonial School."

Sisal

A Mexico City dispatch to the press of May 8 says: "A group of sisal producers from Yucatan has arrived in Mexico City to seek an interview with the President. The producers say that under present conditions sisal production is becoming impossible. They demand an open market, each grower selling where convenient and treating directly with purchasers. . ."

Section 2

Bankers and Cotton Growers

An editorial in Manufacturers Record for May 8 says: "The bankers in the South who lend money to cotton growers who do not raise their own foodstuffs are more responsible for the poverty of these cotton growers than are the growers themselves. They have encouraged a false system of business. They have encouraged the supply merchants to buy feedstuffs and foodstuffs in the West and sell them to cotton growers on credit, often at exorbitant prices as compared with cash prices. The 'grub stake' bankers, as J. S. Wittmeier, president of the First National Bank of Oneonta, Ala., calls them, have been responsible for the continuation of this false system of business. It has impoverished thousands of tenant and small cotton growers, and through their impoverishment it has held back the development of the South as compared with what this section should have accomplished."

Cotton Farmers

An editorial in Manufacturers Record for May 8 says: "Daniel J. Sully, the friend of the cotton grower and the man whose fight for better prices for cotton was lost only because the combined cotton bear gamblers of the world and the cotton manufacturers of Europe united against him in order to crush him financially, writing from Los Angeles, Cal., under date of April 15 to the Manufacturers Record said:....'They, the cotton farmers, are still fighting and they have got to fight with all their energy, with all of their resources, combine and restrict by any legitimate means that their brains, their intelligence will indicate as the proper procedure. Dawes has proven to the world what determination and brains can do. Dawes has created a factor that will make every spindle in America and the world run at its fastest for every hour that the sun shines and every moment that the moon emits light, for those spindles can not run a second prosperously without cotton. The cotton farmer must now prove to himself and then prove to the world that he is master of the situation and that his brain, his brawn, his muscle and his human body are equal to and deserving of all the blessings of this life. His power, his product, cotton, must now and hereafter be considered and its value determined on the basis of the world's needs and the enormous value which it gives to every phase of human and industrial life. Let his determination be not quantity but quality, quality of product, last and all the time, the determination to exterminate the boll weevil, for quality can be procured and the boll weevil must be exterminated...I have never ceased fighting for the cotton farmers and for their cause and I never will, and I will not die until they have won the greatest and most lasting victory that any human beings have ever won.'"

Diversification in Ohio

An editorial in The Ohio Farmer for April 26 says: "A critical situation faces the Ohio producer of dairy and poultry products through the increased production of these commodities in States to our right as we stand on the shores of Lake Erie and face the great commonwealth of Ohio. To-day dairy authorities say that Nebraska butter can be shipped into Ohio five cents a pound cheaper than the homemade product. To-day eggs from the far West have the call in our big eastern cities. What is the answer to this? Is it

going to be met by standardization and higher quality products entirely or is it going to be met by further diversification of Ohio's agriculture and the production of more fruits and vegetables and the like....Ohio is blessed with her location, right in the midst of a great industrial section and right at the gateway to the vast consuming populace of the East. This suggests to our mind that the Ohio farmer who is going to be successful in the future is going to produce his products for the market right at his door. This, too, is going to mean the production of more home-grown fruits and vegetables, as well as the marketing of special brands of flour, meats, dairy products, etc."

Immigration and Prosperity

An editorial in Farm and Dairy, (Ontario), for May 1 says: "No better indication of returning prosperity can be found than is given by our increasing immigration figures. Records of the past forty years show that when immigration has been the largest Canada has been the most prosperous. When immigration has slackened, periods of depression have followed. While it is true that at times immigrants find it difficult to secure remunerative employment, it is also true that in due course the great majority of the immigrants that have reached Canada have soon fitted into our conditions and became useful citizens. Every immigrant that reaches Canada has to travel over the railroads creating traffic for the railway companies. He has to eat, thereby consuming food produced on our farms. He has to wear clothes, which increases the market for our manufactured goods. He needs a home in which to live, thus stimulating building industries. In time he in turn becomes a producer in some line of work and thus helps to increase the general production and wealth of the country. Each immigrant also reduces proportionately the per capita share of the provincial and national debts, which are constituting a load of undue severity on our comparatively small population."

Indian Tea in America

An editorial in Manufacturers Record for May 8 says: "The tea growers of India, not to be outdone by the raisin growers of California and other organizations of fruit growers in this country, have determined to begin a campaign of publicity in the United States for the express purpose of impressing upon American people the desirability of drinking India tea. In doing this they set a good example for American cotton interests and indeed for all lines of activity."

Parcel Post Rates

An editorial in The New England Farmer for May 3 says: "Discussions of the bills now before Congress to increase parcel post rates, once again bring out the contention that the cost of goods bought and sold by the farmer are saddled with the freight charges in both cases. He pays the freight coming and going. Does he? It is a fundamental principle of our whole system of economy that the total cost of any article laid down at the consumer's doorstep is ascertained before the selling price is fixed. That is to say, that the net profit on such articles is that part of the price the consumer pays over and above this total cost. There is no question, therefore, that the freight or parcel post charges are paid by the ultimate consumer. Thus, the farmer surely does pay the freight on all

the goods he buys, and ergo the man to whom he sells his product pays the freight, or parcel post charges, also. The statement that the farmer pays both ways is not only misleading, but is unfair to the consumers, and smacks of an attempt by the middlemen to cover up excessive profits on the farm products they handle. There is no doubt that farmers generally are opposed to any increased parcel post charges; they are large mail order buyers, and in some cases sell a lot of farm produce by mail. As for the actual injury to farmers by the proposed increase in rates, we think that it is exaggerated."

"Ready-to-Serve" Meats

An editorial in The National Provisioner for April 26 says: "The present trade in 'ready-to-serve' meats is one awaiting development. It is only in its infancy. The industrial and financial conditions of the city dweller to-day are such that a large percentage of women have entered daily employment. The number of housewives who formerly devoted much time and attention to the preparation of food have been drawn into this maelstrom, and their time and attention must now be devoted to something else. Such housewives find delicious, tasty, ready-to-serve meats most helpful, and are buying them to an increasing degree."

Real Wheat Losers

An editorial in St. Louis Daily Live Stock Reporter of May 5 says: "The Grain Futures Administration in its report to the Senate on future wheat trading, declares to-day that transactions in futures on the Chicago Board of Trade last year amounted to 8,572,111,000 bushels counting one side of each transaction or a daily average of about 28,500,000 bushels. From these figures it is seen that the wheat crop of the total United States is 'sold' about 11 times a year on the Chicago board alone. Including all the important grain exchanges of the United States the crop is 'sold' perhaps 20 or 30 times per year. Some folks think this is a terrible thing and that the speculation has resulted in the ruination of the wheat grower. Others believe that free and unlimited speculation acts as a market stabilizer, especially the hedging and short selling end of the business. If the data were obtainable it would probably be found that the 'lambs' in the grain speculation, who never have a spade in their hand the year round, lose more in wheat speculation annually perhaps than do all the farmers of the Northwest combined in producing the crops."

Truth-in-Fabrics Bill

An editorial in Farm and Ranch for May 3 says: "Advocates of the pure food law fought through several sessions of Congress before the bill was finally passed. This law has proved a blessing to the Nation and no one even dreams of suggesting its repeal. The 'Truth-in-Fabric' bill which has been pigeonholed by the committee for several sessions is a bill for the purpose of protecting the producers of wool and the consumer of woolen fabrics against imposition on the part of those who use shoddy, or part shoddy, in the manufacture of cloth and palm it off on an ignorant if not an unsuspecting public. There is nothing in the bill which prohibits the manufacture of shoddy cloth. All the measure requires is that manufacturers of cloth and clothing must

put a label on their product designating the shoddy content. Is it a hardship on the manufacturers to require them to be honest with the consumers? From the amount of opposition this bill has developed, one would think that forcing a man to be honest with his customers is cruel and unusual punishment and contrary to the Constitution of the United States....In the meantime, shoddy goods will be sold in such a manner as to deceive the buyer. It is sold as pure wool, and if wool is shoddy, the harm is done by not telling all the truth. Half truths are just as damaging as untruths. An article may be made of pure wool and yet be shoddy, and if shoddy is as serviceable and as good as virgin wool, as some manufacturers claim, then it ought to be proud to travel under its true name."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 8: New York Round White potatoes closed at $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites firm at $1.10 to $1.25 in Chicago. Florida tomatoes, turning, wrapped, steady to stronger at $6 to $7 per six basket carrier in leading markets; repacked stock $9 to $10 in Chicago. Texas Bermuda onions unsettled; 25 to 50¢ higher in New York at $1.75 per standard crate; 50¢ lower in Chicago at $1.25 to $1.50; 90¢ to $1.10 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage about steady at $4 to $5 per barrel crate in eastern cities; $4 f.o.b. Louisiana Klondike strawberries steady to firm at $3.75 to $4.25 per 24-pint crate in city markets; $3 to $3.50 f.o.b. Apple markets dull. New York Baldwins generally $3.25 to $3.75 per barrel in eastern cities.

Chicago hog prices closed at $7.65 for the top and $7.35 to $7.65 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.25 to $11.65; butcher cows and heifers steady at $3.75 to $10.25; feeder steers steady at $5.75 to $9.75; veal calves $7.50 to $10.50 and fat lambs $15 to $17.35.

Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter to-day: New York 38¢, Boston 38 1/2¢, Chicago 36¢, Philadelphia 39¢.

Average grain prices quoted May 8: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.14 to $1.22. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.05 5/8 to $1.14 3/4; St. Louis $1.05 1/2 to $1.07 1/2, Kansas City 98 to $1.06. No.2 red winter Chicago $1.06, St. Louis $1.09 1/2 to $1.11, Kansas City $1.06. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 77 1/4 to 77 3/4¢, Kansas City 74 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn St.Louis 77 1/2 to 78¢, Kansas City 73 1/2¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 76 1/2 to 77 1/2¢, Kansas City 73 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 1/2 to 48 3/4¢, St. Louis 48 3/4 to 49¢, Kansas City 48 1/2¢.

Spot cotton up 13 points, closing at 29.84¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 12 points, closing at 30.17¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 8,	May 7,	May 8, 1923.
20 Industrials	92.04	92.47	96.54
20 R.R. stocks	81.94	81.88	81.55

(Wall St. Jour., May 9.)

DAILY DIGEST

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May 10, 1924.

Section 1

McNary-Haugen Bill

Launching a fight for the passage of the McNary-Haugen grain export bill as an amendment to the tax bill, Senator Norbeck declared farm conditions in the Northwest are worse than they were in 1895, when wheat sold for 45 cents a bushel.(Press, May 10.)

Representatives Clarke, Voigt, Aswell, and Kincheloe submitted a vigorous report against the McNary-Haugen bill, which has been favorably reported to the House from the Senate agriculture committee. (Press, May 10.)

Muscle Shoals

Representatives of the Union Carbide Company continued their explanation of their bid for the Muscle Shoals project before the Senate agriculture committee, and to-day Secretary Hoover will give the committee his views on that problem. (Press, May 10.)

Trade Recession

A New York dispatch to the press of May 9 says: "Bradstreet's tomorrow will says 'Evidences of trade and industrial recession seem to have come more clearly to view this week than at any previous time since last summer. Wholesale trade has tended to increased quiet. Industry, aside from building and kindred trades, has slowed up further. Against this is to be noted a slight gain in some areas where weather conditions have permitted, or where, as in California, the severity of cattle disease quarantines has been relaxed and a measurable return to something like normal trade is reported. The preoccupation of farmers in crop work has tended to restrict country buying, and unseasonably cool or wet weather has also been a deterrent. In large industrial centers, in the leading coal mining regions and in eastern and southern textile manufacturing sections, mention is made of reduced industrial employment affecting retail buying.'"

Japanese Immigration

By a vote of 191 to 171 the House refused to accept the conference report on the immigration bill containing the President's suggestion for postponement of Japanese exclusion until March 1, 1925, and recommitted the report, with instructions to the conferees to eliminate the stipulation written into the bill by the conferees. (Press, May 10.)

Section 2

Beef Supply

An editorial in The National Provisioner for May 3 says: "Should the increased consumption of beef shown in 1923 continue through 1924, it would require the equivalent of one-fourth of the cattle received on the Chicago market in 1923 to satisfy it. Owing to liquidation of range stock due to depressed conditions following the war, there is little hope for securing this added supply from that source. The Corn Belt is carrying only a normal population of beef animals, so no increased marketings can come from this section. One source of supply would be Canadian feeders, should the price increase sufficiently to overcome the tariff on these cattle. This source would be a satisfactory one as cattle coming from the range provinces are mostly of good beef breeding.....One factor remains which may force a larger number of low-grade cattle into the beef supply. This is the overproduction which seems to have been reached in the dairy industry. Dairying in this country has grown to such proportions that the production is practically sufficient to take care of total domestic consumption. This production plus the heavy imports of dairy products, has created something of a surplus and depressed the price to a point which seems to call for retraction. The testing of dairy cows will make way for the survival of only the fittest, and the less productive ones will be sent to the shambles, thus greatly increasing the supply of common beef."

Cotton Movement Northward

An editorial in The Rural New Yorker for May 10 says: "There is no question that cotton culture is slowly working north. There once was an imaginary line, north of which it was assumed that cotton could not be grown, and another, south of which dairying would not pay. Dairying is now profitably conducted south to the Mexican border. Cotton is slowly working north of the old cotton belt. It is now grown nearly half way up the State of Missouri, and will go up farther. Southern Illinois is coming in as a cotton country, and we are on record as predicting that our children will see commercial cotton grown on the Atlantic coast as far north as Philadelphia."

Farm Credit

An editorial in the New York Times of April 30 says: "It is a long call from Wall Street to Main Street, but bankers both in the financial district of New York and in the towns of the Northwest are keeping in close touch with respect to the agricultural and financial situation of the wheat-growing territory. Reports recently received from the Northwestern States have been encouraging and New York bankers are confident that considerable headway has been made against the difficulties which in the last year or so have beset many western farmers."

Flour Milled in Bond

An editorial in The Southwestern Miller for May 6 says: "The decision Cuba makes on the protest of millers of the United States against its action in admitting under the United States preferential tariff all flour milled in bond from Canadian wheat will have a far-reaching effect on the future tariff and trade activities of this country. Trade and tariff agreements between various nations will be as worthless as scraps of paper if a precedent is not established in

this instance that will settle for all time the question of the meaning of tariff preferences between nations. Without the clearing up of this question, it will, in fact, be practically useless to attempt to foster international trade by agreements between this country and other nations."

Food Costs

The Department of Labor, through the Bureau of Labor Statistics has completed the compilations showing changes in the retail cost of food in 24 of the 51 cities included in the Bureau's report. During the month from March 15, 1924, to April 15, 1924, all of the 24 cities showed decreases as follows: Fall River, 5 per cent; Bridgeport, Norfolk, Providence, and Scranton, 3 per cent; Baltimore, Boston, Columbus, Louisville, Manchester, Milwaukee, Omaha, Peoria, St. Paul, Springfield,Ill. and Washington, D.C., 2 per cent; Birmingham, Butte, Houston, Kansas City, Memphis, and Portland,Me., 1 per cent; and Atlanta and Salt Lake City, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent. For the year period, April 15, 1923, to April 15, 1924, 18 of the 24 cities showed decreases as follows: Fall River, 6 per cent; Scranton, 4 per cent; Boston, Bridgeport, Manchester, and Providence, 3 per cent; Houston, Memphis, Norfolk, Portland, Me., St. Paul, and Washington, D.C., 2 per cent; Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Kansas City, and Omaha, 1 per cent; and Louisville, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent. Six cities increased as follows: Columbus and Springfield,Ill., 1 per cent; and Butte, Milwaukee, Peoria, and Salt Lake City, less than five-tenths of 1 per cent. As compared with the average cost in the year 1913, the retail cost of food on April 15, 1924, was 46 per cent higher in Baltimore, Birmingham, and Washington, D.C.; 45 per cent in Milwaukee; 43 per cent in Providence and Scranton; 42 per cent in Boston; 41 per cent in Manchester; 40 per cent in Atlanta and Omaha; 39 per cent in Kansas City; 37 per cent in Fall River; 35 per cent in Memphis; 33 per cent in Louisville; and 22 per cent in Salt Lake City. Prices were not obtained from Bridgeport,Butte, Columbus, Houston, Norfolk, Peoria, Portland, Me., St. Paul, and Springfield,Ill., in 1913, hence no comparison for the 11-year period can be given for these cities.

Immigrants for Cotton Mills

An editorial in Charleston News and Courier says: "The kind of labor that the eastern cotton mills employ is the fruit of a 'liberal' immigration policy. When we find ourselves confronted with the concrete proposal that a lot of this labor be moved to the South we discover that we do not want it. And we are right in not wanting it. We are right in not wanting it in our cotton mills. And we don't want it in any of our other industries or in our cotton fields or on our undeveloped lands. We want immigrants. But they must be the right kind of immigrants, not the kind that a so-called liberal immigration policy would bring us." (Press,May 9.)

Parcel Post Rates

Referring to the proposed legislation to increase parcel post rates, an editorial in American Farming for May says: "These proposed increases we contend are grossly unfair to both the farmers and to publishers. The farmer depends upon the parcel post for the delivery of a great deal of his supplies and for the marketing of much of his produce. Usually he pays the postage on both the packages he receives and the parcels he sends. He will be the

chief burden bearer if the parcel post rates are advanced. And why should he be thus penalized? His burdens are already too grievous. According to our theory of taxation, that taxes should be assessed in proportion to the ability of the tax payer to pay, the farmer's taxes should be lightened instead of increased. Likewise, it is also unfair to shove this anticipated extra burden upon second-class postage, for it would be another unfair discrimination against the publishers of newspapers, farm papers and magazines.... Anything that adversely affects the publishers of farm papers and other publications serving the farmers is, of course, to the disadvantage of the farmers. If the money to meet the increases in salaries in the postal service must be raised by increased postal rates, we submit that it would be decidedly fairer to saddle the burden upon first-class postage. Issuance of 2½-cent stamps to be used in place of the 2-cent stamps now placed on letters, would probably take care of the deficit very nicely--and who would object to paying an extra half-cent to mail a letter! This burden, instead of falling heaviest upon farmers, would be borne largely by those most able to pay it--by socalled 'big business.'"

Prosperity for Farmer

Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent to the Philadelphia Ledger, quotes George M. Reynolds, chairman of the board of the Continental and Commercial Bank, as follows: "The farmer is back at work. He has put his automobile in the barn and is digging prosperity out of the ground. Production is the source of all prosperity, and when the farmer is working, even if his prices are not conducive to big profits, there is at least no cause for concern. There is plenty of cheer in the general outlook. Our exports and imports give indisputable evidence of the large business that is under way; abundant crops are in prospect, there is work for all who want to work and money is plentiful. I never saw a better outlook for soil production than is present this spring in the Central West. The fields are green and luxuriant, the herds and flocks are large and look fine. The wheat crops look well, and that spells prosperity." (Press, May 8.)

Vegetables by Weight

An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for May 3 says: "After July first the housewives of New Jersey will buy their vegetables by weight, a law establishing that system having been passed by the last legislature. Instead of ordering, as has been the custom from time immemorial, so many quarts or pecks she must learn what the desired quantity weighs and name the number of pounds she wants. It will be just as easy and a great deal better after a little time. The law specifies that farm produce may be sold in dry weight measures only as such packages are delivered, unbroken, to the consumer. The packages must be plainly marked with the exact content and also the name and address of the packer or shipper. The enforcement of the law will be under the direction of the Department of Weights and Measures and it is believed that the new system will be of distinct benefit to the consumer."

American Beet Sugar

The annual report of the American Beet Sugar Company for the year ended March 31 shows gross receipts of $6,418,674 against $5,656,795 in the previous year, and net income of $1,515,972 against $686,482. The net income, after allowing for regular

dividends on the preferred stock, was equal to $8.10 a share earned on the $15,000.000 common stock, against $2.57 a share in the previous year. (Press, May 7.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Farm Products

May 9: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.70 for the top and $7.40 to $7.65 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.25 to $11.65; butcher cows and heifers $3.75 to $10.25; feeder steers $5.75 to $9.75; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $10.75 and fat lambs $14.75 to $17.10.

New York Round White potatoes closed at $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites firm at $1.10 to $1.25 in Chicago. Florida tomatoes, turning, wrapped, generally firm at $6 to $6.50 per six-basket carrier; repacked stock $9 to $9.50 in Chicago Texas Yellow Bermuda onions 40¢ lower in Chicago at $1.30 to $1.60 per standard crate; unsettled elsewhere at $1.50 to $1.75; 10¢ higher at shipping points at $1 to $1.10. Cabbage markets steady to firm. South Carolina Wakefield generally $2.75 to $3 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in eastern markets, $1.75 f.o.b. Louisiana Klondike strawberries steady to firm in city markets at $3.75 to $4.25 per 24-pint crate. New York Baldwin apples generally 25 to 50¢ higher, closing at $3.50 to $4 per barrel. Northwestern Extra Fancy Winesaps nearly steady at $2 to $2.35 per box.

Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter to-day: New York 39 1/2¢, Boston 39¢, Chicago 36¢, Philadelphia 39 1/2¢.

Average grain prices quoted May 9: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.14 7/8 to $1.32 7/8. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.06 1/2 to $1.12 1/4, St. Louis $1.06 to $1.09, Kansas City $1.01 to $1.05. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.11 to $1.12, Kansas City $1.05. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 78 1/4 to 79¢, Kansas City 74¢, Minneapolis 72 1/4 to 72 3/4¢. No.3 yellow corn St.Louis 77 1/2 to 78¢, Kansas City 73¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 77 to 78¢, Kansas City 73¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 48 1/2 to 49¢, St. Louis 49¢, Kansas City 48 1/2¢, Minneapolis 44 1/8 to 44 5/8¢.

Spot cotton up 73 points, closing at 30.57¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 113 points, closing at 31.30¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 9,	May 8,	May 9, 1923.
20 Industrials	91.40	92.04	98.19
20 R.R. stocks	81.83	81.94	82.31

(Wall St. Jour., May 10.)

DAILY DIGEST

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May 12, 1924.

Section 1

McNary-Haugen Bill — Efforts to attach the McNary-Haugen grain export bill as a rider were abandoned when Republican leaders in the Senate gave assurance that the proposed farm bill would be given precedence on the legislative program. Toward the end of the fight Republican leaders in brief speeches emphatically denied responsibility for the measure as it now stands asserting that it had been put into its present shape by a combination of Democratic and insurgent votes. (Press, May 11.)

Following a conference at the White House, Chairman Snell, of the House rules committee, announced that the McNary-Haugen grain export bill would be given a privileged status for early action in the House before adjournment. (Press, May 11)

New Bureau for Department — The establishment in the Department of Agriculture of a bureau of interstate cooperative marketing is provided for in a bill introduced by Senator Sheppard, of Texas. (Press, May 11.)

Southwest Wheat — An Oklahoma dispatch to the press of May 11 says: "With the first movement of new winter wheat in Oklahoma and the Southwest only a few weeks away, there has been a lull in buying of old wheat by mills, not only characteristic of the season but below normal. Millers are careful not to take on any more wheat than will be necessary to run them to the beginning of the new crop year. Because of the situation grain dealers find it rather difficult to make sales at a profit. As a consequence, some excellent hard wheat of high protein content has been bought by mills at bargain prices."

Sheep and Goat Industry — A Fort Worth dispatch to the press of May 11 says: "Almost unprecedented prosperity for the sheep and goat industry in Texas is reported by the Livestock Sanitary Commission of Texas. Unexcelled range conditions for this time of the year have assumed an abnormally high lamb and kid crop, as high as 85 per cent in some sections. Spring lambs are being contracted for at 10 cents a pound for September and October deliveries in many cases. Kid mohair is bringing 80 cents a pound and grown mohair is selling at above 50 cents."

Muscle Shoals — Witnesses favoring proposals for Muscle Shoals, other than that of Henry Ford, were heard by the Senate agriculture committee. Secretary Hoover postponed his appearance at the request of the committee until some day this week. (Press, May 11.)

Section 2

Cooperative Marketing Bill

An editorial in Western Breeder's Journal for May 1 says: "One of the most interesting proposals now before Congress for the purpose of improving agricultural conditions is the Curtis-Aswell Cooperative Marketing Bill, embodying what is known as the 'Yoakum Plan.'....The interesting feature of this proposal is that it does not promise immediate relief for the farmer. In the hearing before the House committee on agriculture Mr. Yoakum explained that this bill was not intended to supplant any farm relief bill now before Congress. 'This is the foundation work,' said Mr. Yoakum. 'This will be in operation fifty years from now; it is for all time.' The proposal is an ambitious one. The scheme is so broad and comprehensive in its purposes that many will hesitate to accept it without a good deal of thought. One thing commends it, however, and that is that it stands on what it will do 'in time,' without promising too much for the immediate present."

Dairying in California

An editorial in The Pacific Dairy Review for May 1 says: "One of our eastern contemporaries publishes an article under the heading of 'More dairy products needed in California.' It gives figures to show that we receive a lot of butter and cheese from other States. All of this may look good at long distance, but to the man on the milking stool in California it is not difficult to account for our shortage in dairy production. With milkers demanding one hundred dollars a month and board, taxes at the limit and other expenses out of all proportion to the prices of dairy products, it is not difficult to understand why many Californians are willing to let outsiders produce some of the dairy products that are needed in the State. When the dairy business becomes reasonably profitable its expansion will naturally follow in a State with such favorable conditions for the industry as exist in California. No boosting will be necessary. There is probably no interest in California that is more eager to see an expansion of the dairy business than the Pacific Dairy Review but it realizes that an over-boomed industry is not desirable. What we all want is to be connected with a prosperous industry."

Diversification of Crops

Representative Burtness of North Dakota is quoted as saying that of the last eight crops produced in his State seven have been sold at less than cost of production. In an interview in the Boston Globe C. W. Barron, recognizing and correctly diagnosing the disease without necessarily accepting the description of it by the Congressman, correctly points out the remedy. The all-wheat business has become a relic of artificial conditions created by the war. His remedy is regional and reasonable diversification. Circumstances over which legislation can have no possible control brought about these conditions. Official confirmation of the statements made in the Barron interview are available for anybody. ...Mr. Barron showed that the trouble was all in the low yield per acre, and the McNary-Haugen bill can not add one bushel to the yield. Costs and yield must vary with farms and farmers. Some are much better than, and many far below the average. The figures actually show that the average North Dakota wheat grower

is not making a profit and that he could not do so over a period of years with wheat selling above $2 a bushel. It is as clear as a sum in the simplest arithmetic that the average and less than average producers must increase the output or quit....(Wall St. Jour., May 9.)

Hogs and Corn

An editorial in The Country Gentleman for May 10 says: "A walk through any of the stockyards of the country on a morning in early spring gave you a slant on what the farmers as a whole thought of the relative prices of hogs and corn. About the most uneven and lightest run of hogs that the packer has ever known was arriving. And the price paid reflected the quality. But the farmer argued that high corn prices justified the selling of his corn and hogs separately rather than selling the corn in the hogs. In many instances this was unquestionably true, and the shrewd farmer had thereby taken a clear profit on his corn crop instead of a questionable profit on feeding out his hogs. But in many other instances the farmer has been misled, by the quoted prices on corn, into believing that he could cash in his soft corn profitably. And it isn't being done. There seldom or never is an oversupply of good, sound merchantable corn. There always is too much semi-soft and soft corn coming to the market. It is this corn that fools the farmer into taking a double loss where he ought to make one clear profit. It is this corn always--most of the crop usually--that ought to travel to market on the hoof."

McNary-Haugen Bill

An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for May 10 says: "The city newspapers, representing nearly everything but agriculture, are throwing fits over the possible passage of the McNary-Haugen bill. They claim it is class legislation and will, if passed, increase the cost of living; that it is unworkable and that it will not help the farmer; that it is a method of price-fixing intended to benefit one class at the expense of others. Most of the same papers have for fifty years been strong advocates of the protective tariff principle. They have contended that protection to American industry was necessary to enable manufacturers to compete with foreign nations. The undenied effect of the duties is to raise prices in this country, but it is claimed the benefits outweigh the disadvantages because of stimulated industries. We are not here disputing these contentions, but we do think that all honest Americans should be willing to have equal justice dealt out to all classes and industries. The purpose of the McNary-Haugen bill is to apply the principle of the tariff to agricultural products, something that is not achieved by our present tariff law nor can it be made to produce results similar to those enjoyed by manufacturers. A protective tariff undeniably raises the American price-level above that of the world's price. If it does not, it is of no benefit to the manufacturer. That is all that is claimed and all that is sought for agriculture by the proponents of the McNary-Haugen bill."

Parcel Post Rates

An editorial in Farm Implement News for May 8 says: "We doubt if any implement dealer in the country will object to an increase in the pay of postal service men, whose remuneration has

been notoriously inadequate, especially during the past five years. But there may be dealers who will object to providing for the entire increase as well as for reducing the postal deficit already existing by an increase in parcel post rates. It is said that this increase will amount to about 200 per cent if the Paige bill is passed. When the parcel post bill was pending most of the retailers of the country opposed it and nearly all of the retailers' organizations fought the bill. The basis of the opposition was the fear that a parcel post system would give the mail order houses an undue advantage over country merchants. Perhaps after ten years' trial there has been considerable change in sentiment. We know a few implement dealers who fought the parcel post but who now believe it is a good thing for them and their customers, as it has reduced the transportation charges on repairs and other small goods. But it has been so long since we have heard or read anything from implement dealers on this subject we do not know the sentiment of the trade. Those who still believe that the parcel post favors the mail order business at the expense of the country merhcnat probably will not object to an increase in the rates. Others will. In our opinion Congress should defer legislation bearing upon postage rates until the investigation of cost of the service now in progress is completed. With the information then to be available a scientific adjustment of the question can be made. Hasty legislation at this time might prove to be the worst possible course. Certainly the rates as provided by the Paige bill would materially reduce the volume of parcel post shipments and this might defeat its aim to increase the revenue."

Protection for Cotton Goods

An editorial in American Wool and Cotton Reporter for May 8 says: "The National Association of Cotton Manufacturers intend to work for an increase in import duties on cotton goods. At their convention last week they voted to appoint a committee to study the possibilities of changing the existing law by taking advantage of the flexible tariff provision. For the still further protection of the domestic industry against increasing foreign competition, it was also voted to inaugurate a campaign in favor of American-made merchandise."

Storage of Wheat

An editorial in The Price Current-Grain Reporter for May 7 says: "Several years ago when wheat was selling at $3.00 a bushel and deflation began the farmer was promptly advised by politicians and farm agitators to hold his grain for $3.00 per bushel. Many did to their sorrow and it certainly cost the wheat farmers millions of dollars in following this ill-timed advice. Statements have been appearing in North Dakota papers of late that $11,000,000 worth of wheat is still held in North Dakota in elevators in storage for farmers to be shipped out this spring. It is stated that the reason for this grain being stored and held is that the farmers have been told that legislation would be enacted which would enhance the price Farmers who sold early or shortly after harvest are the ones who have fared the best. Even the much 'damned' speculator who last fall believed that wheat was a purchase has been seeing wheat prices gradually lowering. It is pretty hard to get away from the law of supply and demand and this 'hold your wheat' advice has not been a profitable venture for the farmer."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Farm Products

For the week ended May 10, 1924: Stocker and feeder shipments from 12 important markets during the week ending May 2 were cattle and calves 57,239; hogs 12,832; sheep 16,597. In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets beef is 25¢ to $1 higher; veal $1 to $3; lamb $2 to $3 and pork firm to $1 higher. Mutton is weak to $1 lower.

Eastern potato markets about steady. New York Round Whites $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds, Florida Spaulding Rose generally 75¢ to $1.50 higher, closing at $8.25 to $9.25 per double head barrel in leading markets, mostly $7.50 f.o.b. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions 40¢ lower in Chicago at $1.20 to $1.60; steady to stronger in eastern cities at $1.75 to $2 per standard crate; $1.10 to $1.20 f.o.b. Cabbage markets about steady. South Carolina Wakefield $2.25 to $2.75 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in eastern cities; $1.75 f.o.b. Louisiana Klondike strawberries tend lower, ranging $3 to $4.25 per 24-pint crate in city markets; weak at shipping points at $2 to $2.32 1/2. Northwestern Extra Fancy Winesap apples $2 to $2.35 per box.

Butter markets unsettled during the week. Trading irregular. Fairly heavy into storage movement. Imports of no consequence. Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter: New York 39¢, Chicago 36 3/4¢, Philadelphia 40¢, Boston 39¢.

Cheese markets steady. Trading somewhat more active toward latter part of week. Latest reports indicate a tendency on the part of prices to recover slightly from recent declines. Wholesale prices on Wisconsin Primary markets May 9: Twins 17¢, Single Daisies 17 3/4¢, Double Daisies 17 1/4¢, Young Americas 17 3/4¢, Longhorns 17 1/2¢, Square Prints 18¢.

Hay market weak and prices generally low. Quoted May 9: No.1 timothy Boston $30.50, New York $30.50, Pittsburgh $27, Cincinnati $24, Chicago $26, Minneapolis $19, St. Louis $24.50, Kansas City $20.25. No.1 alfalfa-Kansas City $25, Omaha $20. No.1 prairie Kansas City $15, Omaha $13, St. Louis $17.50, Chicago $20, Minneapolis $17.

Millfeed markets quiet. Demand only for small lots.

Grain market unsettled. Wheat prices holding fairly firm but corn markets weaker. Demand for corn less active but receipts continue of fair volume. Quoted May 10: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.14 1/2 to $1.32 1/2. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.13, St. Louis $1.06. No.2 red winter St.Louis $1.11. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 78 3/4 to 79¢, Minneapolis 71 3/4 to 72 1/4¢. No.3 yellow corn St.Louis 77 to 78¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 48 3/4¢; St.Louis 48 3/4 to 49¢, Minneapolis 43 7/8 to 44 3/8¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 57 points during the week, closing at 30.24¢ per lb. New York May futures advanced 128 points, closing at 30.98¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 10,	May 9,	May 10, 1923.
20 Industrials	90.55	91.40	97.61
20 R.R.stocks	81.71	81.83	82.15

(Wall St. Jour., May 12.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 13, 1924.

Section 1

Freight Rates — Urged by the farm bloc, a joint resolution was adopted by the Senate yesterday directing the Interstate Commerce Commission to adjust freight rates to relieve depression in any basic industry and particularly agriculture. It was adopted with virtually no debate (Press, May 13).

Cotton Trade Inquiry — An inquiry into the cotton textile industry by the Tariff Commission was ordered yesterday by the Senate on motion of Senator Walsh, of Massachusetts. Senator Walsh declared the industry was suffering a depression, but that, contrary to popular belief, the situation did not result from importation of cotton cloth. Senator Lodge joined in asking adoption of the resolution. Senators Dial and Smith, of South Carolina, suggested a buyers' strike might be responsible for depression, but did not oppose the resolution. (Press, May 13.)

Tariff Rates — Increase in the tariff duties on woolen and cotton goods, as a means of stimulating the textile industry in New England, is proposed in a letter forwarded to the Tariff Commission to-day by Representative John J. Rogers of Massachusetts....Mr. Rogers contends that the principal cause of the depression in the textile industry is to be found in the increased imports of cloth from England. (Press, May 13.)

Farm Relief — Farm relief legislation is now an outstanding issue in Congress, with the farm bloc standing against adjournment until some measure is enacted. The first fight will be made on the McNary-Haugen bill which will come to a test within a short time in the House. If this measure fails the bloc is prepared to champion the Norris-Sinclair bill, while the Curtis-Aswell bill is in the offing and may receive attention. The rate adjusting resolution was introduced by Senator Smith, chairman of the interstate commerce committee, and was supported by Senator Cummins. Spokesmen for the farm bloc said the resolution would mark a great step forward in aiding the farmer in that quick, cheap transportation would be afforded for farm products. It directs the Interstate Commerce Commission to effect without delay "such lawful changes in the rate structure of the country as will promote the freedom of movement by common carriers of the products of agriculture, including livestock, at the lowest possible lawful rate compatible with the maintenance of adequate transportation service." (Press, May 13.).

Section 2

Cotton Marketing and Manufacturing

The Country Gentleman for May 10 says: "There is a curiously close similarity between the condition of the cotton-manufacturing industry and the marketing situation that confronts the American farmer. Both are scattered into many separate, competitive units. Both are inadequately organized to protect their markets. Both are dependent upon others to make the markets for their goods. Both are struggling at the producing end of business, with millions of dollars of capital tied up, while some man, often with no other expense than an office and a desk, nips off the profit. Both, in other words, are at the mercy of the speculator. The difficulties of the cotton manufacturers are directly reflected in the pocketbooks of the southern cotton planters; but farmers everywhere in the United States raising wheat or corn or hogs or cattle or fruit or tobacco or what not else, can find a lesson in a disorganized system that permits a series of middlemen to make money while the producer himself fights for a living. During the late winter and spring the inability of the cotton-manufacturing industry to protect its market took millions of dollars off the value of cotton. Farmers have seen the same thing happen to them. Speculators were able to throw the cotton market into a wholly unjustified slump--to the loss of both manufacturers and growers. The cotton manufacturers plead that they can not sell goods at prices that would pay for the raw material and its cost of manufacture. They point to the increased competition of English goods. How similar is this to the explanation of farmers in their plea for a higher tariff on farm products! The real trouble is that the cotton-manufacturing industry is not organized to defend its own market, as a result of which it has been forced to surrender to dealers and sell goods at a loss, or to curtail output. All of which bears the closest comparison with the situation of the farmer who attempts to buck the market without organization....Cheap and abundant cotton has aided the mills in getting by in the past. Now cotton is no longer abundant and it should not be cheap. At its highest it seldom returned to the grower what it should. It is certainly not now bringing the planter what supply and inevitable needs would warrant. But it might be bringing such a price if the cotton manufacturers had engaged in a concerted campaign to convince dealers and consumers that the prices asked for cotton goods were justified by the world shortage of cloth. Likewise all farm products might be bringing better prices to the farmers had they been organized to engage in concerted campaigns to convince consumers that higher prices were justified....."

Carload Weight of Grain

An editorial in Flour and Feed for May says: "Railroad executives maintain, in proposing that the minimum carload weight of grain and grain products be increased to 60,000 lbs. from 40,000 lbs, that conservation of equipment would thus be effected....Flour and feed millers and merchants are particularly interested in seeing that the increased minimum asked by the railroads is not granted. Forty thousand pounds of mill products constitute a larger carload of flour or feed than a majority of retail dealers would buy, if a less quantity could be shipped at the carload rate. It is recognized, however, that to demand a reduction in the present minimum would lack justification, considering that box cars are now built

to carry much heavier loads than was the rule not so many years ago. Still, a dozen plausible arguments might be presented to show the advantage of a 30,000 lbs. minimum on grain products, where one can be advanced to justify the 50 per cent increase now demanded by the carriers. Should the railroads be granted authority to increase the carload minimum to 60,000 lbs., over the protests of shippers, it will work an unnecessary hardship on thousands of dealers, in that they must arrange for cash or credit far in excess of their present requirements or be content to commit business suicide by making purchases in less than carload quantities, paying the higher freight rate exacted on such shipments. Rail executives deplore the frequent and insistent demands being made in many quarters for a downward revision of rates, pleading that they are working out their own salvation and should not be disturbed. By the same token, the retail merchant who handles flour and feed has troubles of his own and seems entitled to consideration of a similar character."

Forest Conservation

The Wall Street Journal for May 8 says: "A cartoon, widely circulated, represents this planet as a small boy sitting in a barber's chair while his hair is being closely clipped. Forests form the hair and the barber is working on that portion representing the United States. He has nearly finished the denuding process. Forests exert a great influence over climate, moderating the extremes of heat and cold. Whether or not they have a direct influence upon the volume of the rainfall is disputed, but they admittedly perform a great service in controlling the water after it has fallen, checking beneficially its rate of distribution and holding a precipitation up to four or five inches of rainfall.... Large areas of land have been denuded of the protecting forests and are as bare as the head of the boy in the barber's chair. Mother Nature is already reproving us and her voice grows more insistent year by year. We have one-crop farmers who impoverish the soil by the most improvident form of cultivation. We do not realize that we have developed this into what practically amounts to a national policy, even as we treated the wood pigeon and the buffalo as the enemies of mankind. No country in the world has been so blessed as this in its original endowment by Nature. No country has made so poor an accounting, or exhibited such profligate waste."

McNary-Haugen Bill

An editorial in The Northwestern-Miller for May 7 says: "As compared with the farmers and the bread consumers, the millers will not be the chief sufferers if the McNary-Haugen bill is enacted. True, it will mean the destruction of their export trade; it will mean chaos in the methods of buying and selling, and financial losses which may put a few milling companies out of existence. But the miller, unlike the farmer, is paid on the basis of the service he renders, not on that of supply and demand alone. If the wheat price is temporarily advanced, the prices of flour and bread will advance with it for the consumer to pay. If, as the result of artificially stimulated production, the wheat price collapses, the farmer will suffer; the miller will go on grinding. The milling industry opposes the McNary-Haugen bill, not because it fears for

its own existence, but because disaster to the wheat grower and needless burdens for the bread consumer inevitably mean bad times for the millers; because any policy which is economically unsound is a barrier to industrial progress, and because Government interference puts an end to constructive effort for the future. No one can possibly foretell how the millers will operate under the provisions of this measure, but that they will operate somehow is certain."

Nitrate Production An editorial in The American Fertilizer for May 3 says: "Reports from Chile state that the Nitrate Producers' Association desires to extend the organization for six years, provided all producers join. They insist particularly that the American companies join. The latter have heretofore refused to become members of the association, giving as a reason their fear of conflict with the Sherman law. The reason for the chief producers insisting on American cooperation is not quite clear at this distance. Possibly they fear American competition in coming years, for one big American company is reported to be developing an improved process for refining the crude nitrate. The largest American producer has an efficient selling organization at home. It is doubtful if the association can control the selling price in this country while the nitrate remains in the hands of the producer. The bulk of the nitrate is sold in Chile, to a few big dealers, who distribute it throughout the world. The Government experts who investigated the status of Chilean nitrate recommended that the American producers should acquire some voice in the affairs of the Producers' Association. That might be advantageous if they could enter the association as the equals of the British and Chilean producers, but as long as their output is only three per cent of the total they will not wield much influence in such a compact little monopoly as the Producers' Association has been."

Tariff and Canadian Wheat A Winnipeg dispatch to the Journal of Commerce of May 9 says: "According to Canadian news letter, more Canadian wheat is going to United States millers than ever before, in spite of the 42 cents duty imposed recently. Minneapolis, Duluth, Chicago and Buffalo mills have contracts aggregating 14,000,000 bushels now registered at Fort William and Port Arthur, while a single concern has contracts for delivery of 7,000,000 bushels during May. Exporters here assert that the increased tariff designed against Canadian wheat has been quite ineffective."

Wheat Crop An editorial in The Journal of Commerce for May 10 says: "Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of the winter wheat crop situation in this country is the fact that the predicted output, almost as large as last year, is to a considerable extent a result of increased yield per acre. In view of this fact it is probably safe to assume that the cost of production will be less than last year. There can be little doubt that we in the past few years have been producing too much wheat. It is, of course, not definitely known as yet what the size of the spring crop will be, and inasmuch as that forms an important part of our annual output we may yet produce a good deal less wheat this year than we have been doing of late years. A better adjustment of production to probable demand

is about the only cure for the ills that have been besetting the grain growers. The sooner that truth is realized and action taken on the strength of such knowledge the better for all concerned."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 12, 1924: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.35 for the top and $7.15 to $7.35 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.10 to $11.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.75 to $10; feeder steers $5.75 to $9.75; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $11.

New York Round White potatoes sold at $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds. Northern Sacked Round Whites steady at $1.10 to $1.25 in Chicago. Florida Spaulding Rose $1 to $1.50 higher in eastern markets at $9 to $9.50 per double head barrel; stronger at $7.50 f.o.b. Texas Bliss Triumphs $5 to $5.50, sacked per 100 pounds in midwestern markets. New York Baldwin apples closed 50 to 75¢ higher in a few markets at $3.50 to $4.25 per barrel, top of $4.50 in Philadelphia. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions generally higher selling at $1.30 to $1.60 per standard crate in Chicago, $1.75 to $2 elsewhere; $1.15 to $1.25 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage steady at $4 to $5.50 per barrel crate in eastern cities; $3.50 f.o.b. Louisiana Klondike strawberries weaker at $3 to $3.50 per 24-pint crate in city markets; $2.05 to $2.30 f.o.b. Arkansas Klondikes $4.50 to $5 per 24-quart crate in midwestern cities; $4 to $4.25 f.o.b.

Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter to-day: New York 40¢, Chicago 37¢, Boston 39 1/2¢, Philadelphia 40 3/4¢.

Average grain prices quoted May 12: No.1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.14 to $1.32, No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.05 3/4 to $1.13 3/4, Kansas City $1 to $1.09, St. Louis $1.06. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.11, Kansas City $1.02 to $1.03. No.3 red winter Chicago $1.05 1/2. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 78¢, Kansas City 73 1/2¢. No.3 yellow St. Louis 76 to 77 1/2¢, Kansas City 72 1/2¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 76 1/2 to 79¢, Kansas City 72¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 3/4 to 48 1/2¢, St. Louis 48 1/2 to 49¢, Kansas City 47 3/4¢.

Spot cotton up 3 points, closing at 30.27¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 24 points, closing at 31.22¢. (Prepared by the Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 12,	May 10,	May 12, 1923.
20 Industrials	89.48	90.55	95.40
20 R.R. stocks	81.58	81.71	81.68

(Wall St. Jour., May 13.)

DAILY DIGEST

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May 14, 1924.

Section 1

Department Bill Appropriation — The annual supply bill of the Department of Agriculture, carrying $60,954,633, was reported to the Senate yesterday. The total is $11,886,820 under last year's appropriation, but $3,724,808 in excess of this year's estimate by the Budget Bureau. The Senate committee increased the appropriations over the House bill by $4,370,890. (Press, May 14.)

McNary-Haugen Bill — The House Republican steering committee yesterday virtually agreed to bring the McNary-Haugen grain export corporation bill before the House Friday or Saturday, with debate limited to two days. (Press, May 14.)

An editorial on this bill in The Washington Post to-day says in part: "Whether he is aware of it or not, every citizen of the United States is affected by the McNary-Haugen bill, which a powerful special interest is bent upon forcing through Congress. The object of the bill is to 'help the farmer,' but the inevitable effect of the legislation would be to injure every one, the farmer included, by making artificially high prices for food products, which in turn would force up all other prices. The plan embodied in the McNary-Haugen bill makes a gift of from $150,000,000 to $500,000,000 a year to packers, middlemen, shippers, speculators, and others who do not produce a pound of food. If the farmer should obtain any increased price at all for what he produces, he would lose it again by increased cost of everything he buys, including labor. The bill virtually places the agricultural industry of the United States in the hands of the Government, operating through a corporation in which farmers are conspicuously absent."

Railroad Rates — The House commerce committee yesterday ordered a favorable report on the Hoch resolution to direct the Interstate Commerce Commission to investigate the railroad rate structure with a view to a general readjustment. (Press, May 14.)

Truth-in-Fabric Legislation — The House commerce committee yesterday referred all bills bearing upon truth-in-fabric legislation to a subcommittee of five, who will endeavor to coordinate the various measures. (Press, May 14.)

Financial Readjustments — The Federal Reserve Board was urged by its advisory council, meeting in quarterly session yesterday, to take every possible step to aid in the world financial readjustments incident to the creation of a German bank of issue as proposed in the report of the Dawes committee. (Press, May 14.)

Section 2

Agricultural Outlook

The Wall Street Journal for May 13 says: "A calculation by the Bureau of Economics of the Department of Agriculture shows the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar in March at 74 cents. While this is obviously not all that could be desired it is hopefully true that since 1921 there has been a constant, although slow, upward movement. Readjustment may well be a long progress, but it is working itself out. Since the outbreak of the war there has been a wide swing in the purchasing power of the farmer's dollar. With the exception of 1916, in the years between the beginning of the war and the deflation period, the power of the farm dollar ranged from 106 to 112 cents. On the downward movement it went to 67 cents and has been working upward from that level steadily since the beginning of 1923 to the present neighborhood of 74 cents. When the farmer's dollar was at its lowest in 1921 the price index of non-agricultural goods stood at 161. That figure moved upward until in April, 1923, it was at 176. In that same month the farmer's dollar stood at 70 cents. This shows an increase in the selling price of farm products. Since that month the index of non-agricultural commodities has been on the downward trend and in March of this year was at 161 or just where it was in 1921 when the farmer's dollar was at 67 cents. There is a less satisfactory showing in the wage situation. When the farmer's dollar stood at 67 cents the monthly wages of farm labor without board had an index figure of 143. The trend has been somewhat disconcertingly upward since then, until in March of this year the index was 153. The movement in wages may be called general, as in the same period those of New York factory workers increased from the index average of 206 to 222. Demand like this shows why farm labor is scarcer and able to exact more. In actual experience, however, this has not worked out badly for the farmer. Since the war began there has been an increase of 18 per cent in the productive capacity of the workers, which makes a whole lot of difference. It can, therefore, be assumed with some confidence that farmers are meeting the wage situation in the right way--by greater efficiency and more production to each worker. This official index tells a sufficiently reiterated story of hard conditions since 1920. It further tells of skill and courage on the farm in meeting such conditions. Wiping away the political dust that has been thrown in the eyes of the agricultural community, it is even possible to gain an assurance from these figures that our farmers themselves are meeting the situation in the only business like way. Their greater efficiency in production, taken in relation with a falling price index for the commodities they consume, means the only sort of readjustment that can bring them permanent good."

Bank Failures and Agriculture

The Farmer (St. Paul) for May 10 says: "The closing of one of the large trust and savings institutions of the Twin Cities last week is one more indication of the difficulties existing in the agricultural world. Frozen assets in the shape of delinquent northwestern farm mortgages is given as the cause for this closure

Once again we find that close times in the agricultural world must eventually be reflected in all the other industries. The Farmer has repeatedly called attention to the fact that the American people are fooling themselves if they think that there can be permanent and general prosperity without farm prosperity. High wages for labor and tariff-protected industry alone can not bring about long-continued prosperity. A third factor must be considered --the farm operators who are the chief producers of new wealth taken from the soil. Unless things are right on the farm, things will eventually go wrong in industry, and that is what is happening right now....If the people of the United States will awake to the necessity of a sound and prosperous agriculture as a basis for national prosperity, the injustices of the past three years can be largely overcome. On the other hand, unless something is done to see that the farmer gets a square deal, both in the sale of his products and in the purchase of his necessities, a general agricultural revolt is inevitable. Occasional bank failures or closures are unfortunate, but are not nearly so alarming as the existing difficulties in the agricultural world that causes frozen assets and depleted reserves. The 'hard-boiled' bank examiners and the sound banking regulations can be counted on to take care of the banking situation. In the meantime, what is to be done about the agricultural situation which causes occasional disturbances in banking circles?"

Cooperative Marketing

The Oklahoma Farmer for May 10 says: "Organizations for cooperative marketing, as we have said many times, offer the one chance for developing an organization of farmers with national influence sufficient to compete with capital and labor in their efforts to get advantage, special privilege and more than what is fair from Government. Capital goes after the money. Labor goes after the money. Agriculture must go after the money. In efforts to develop and maintain their organizations, capital and labor always are in trouble. The way is doubly difficult for agriculture. It will have the same troubles that capital and labor have with men seeking to use their organizations for inordinate personal profit. Added to that is the determination of organized capital and organized labor to hold all of the advantage they have gained over unorganized agriculture."

Cotton in Australia

A London dispatch to the press of May 13 says: "'We are going to make Australia the greatest cotton growing country,' was the statement of G. F. Pearce, Commonwealth Home Minister, upon arriving at Sydney, N.S.W., to preside over a conference of the Ministers of Agriculture of all the States meeting there for the purpose of co-ordinating efforts throughout the country in connection with the cotton industry, says a dispatch to the Daily Mail. The aim of the conference is to evolve a comprehensive scheme of plant breeding, seed selection and research work regarding diseases and pests, and the Home Minister, emphasizing the need for thoroughness, declared: 'If our cotton is to win the world's markets it must be because its fine quality gains for it the same reputation we have won for our merino wool.' The Mail reports that a loan of 20,000,000 pounds, backed by the British and Australia Governments to assist emigration to Australian, is contemplated."

Foot-and-Mouth Disease

The Davenport Democrat for May 9 says: "California has stood up to a rigid foot-and-mouth disease quarantine like a good sport, and is able to announce now that tourists need not be afraid of catching it, or of any undue inconvenience, if they travel out that way. The quarantine was a bigger inconvenience and a greater loss to California than anyone not in close touch with it can understand. The State concurred in the strict measures that were taken to curb the outbreak, however, realizing that failure to put down the disease at the start would mean many times the same loss not only to that but to other States, if it got a real foothold among American herds....The Department of Agriculture is entitled to great credit for the prompt and efficient manner in which it met the emergency."

Grain Exports

Grain exports from the United States last week totaled 1,097,000 bushels, against 2,029,000 bushels for the previous week. The figures as compared with last week announced by the Commerce Department follow: Barley, 50,000 bushels, against 168,000; corn, 352,000, against 383,000; oats, 3,000, against none; rye, 50,000, against 677,000; wheat, 642,000, against 801,000. Canadian grains in transit, 5,673,000, against 2,361,000. United States and Canadian wheat flour in transit, 213,000 barrels, against 285,000 barrels. (Press, May 13.)

Japanese Import Wheat

A Vancouver, B.C., dispatch to the press of May 13 says: "Advances in the price of native rice are forcing Japan to buy Canadian wheat in heavy quantities, according to T. Shimusaki, representative of a Tokio milling firm, who is investigating the wheat situation. Mr. Shimusaki said Canadian wheat could be imported by Japan at about 15 cents a bushel cheaper than Japanese wheat could be produced, and was much cheaper than rice. The Japanese people, he added, have come to prefer wheat to rice. Japan has imported 80,000 tons of Canadian wheat in the last three months, according to statistics of the port of Vancouver. China also has been a heavy purchaser, taking 120,000 tons."

Parcel Post Rates

An editorial in Florida Times Union for May 7 says: "To increase the parcel post rate will mean additional cost of many articles now distributed in that way--or a change in the plan of distribution. Adding to the rate does not necessarily mean great additional receipts; for merchants and farmers and others use the parcel post because it is considered reasonable and safe. A considerable advance would drive their business into other channels. Possibly the benefit gained by the addition of some dollars to the carriers' or clerks' pay would be greater than the loss to the public. The parcel post has been considered a great boon to many and its success has been at least partly due to the low cost of the service."

Tobacco Marketing in Indiana

A Madison, Ind., dispatch to the press of May 11 says: "Judge Edward S. Roberts, of the Jefferson Circuit Court, holds that the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association's pool contracts in Indiana are invalid and unenforceable. The association operates in Kentucky, where it was organized, and in Indiana, Ohio, Missouri,

Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee. The suit for breach of contract was against an Indiana member and scores of other suits filed in Indiana courts are pending, awaiting this test case against 'contract jumpers,' a name given to those who became dissatisfied with prices the pool was obtaining and sold their tobacco over the loose leaf independent floors. The court holds that though the association has a non-profit status in Kentucky, it is a corporation 'organized for pecuniary profit' in Indiana, though it filed application for admission and received a certificate as a corporation 'not organized for pecuniary profit.' This being the case, the court holds that the association can not maintain a suit in Indiana and sustains defendant's demurrer to that effect."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 13: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.40 for the top, bulk of sales $7.20 to $7.35; medium and good beef steers $8.25 to $11.50; butcher cows and heifers $3.75 to $10; feeder steers $5.57 to $9.75; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $11; fat lambs $13 to $15.25; yearlings $10.25 to $13.25, and fat ewes $5 to $8.50.

Eastern Round White potatoes sold at $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites $1.10 to $1.25 in Chicago. Texas Bliss Triumphs generally $4.75 to $5.50, sacked per 100 pounds in midwestern markets. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions $1.30 to $1.60 per standard crate in Chicago; generally $1.75 to $2.15 in other city markets; $1.25 f.o.b. Florida tomatoes, turning, wrapped, generally $6 to $7.50 per six basket carrier in eastern cities, repacked stock $9 to $10 in Chicago. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage $2.50 to $2.75 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in eastern cities; $1.50 f.o.b. Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi pointed type $5 to $5.25 per barrel crate in Chicago. Norfolk section of Virginia Wakefield $3.25 to $3.75 in Baltimore. North Carolina Klondike and Missionary strawberries 14 to 17 1/2¢ quart basis in eastern cities; 32-quart crate of Klondikes $4 to $4.50 and Missionarys $2.75 to $3.25 at shipping points, wagon-loads cash to growers.

Average grain prices quoted May 13: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.15 1/2 to $1.32 1/2. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.06 1/2 to $1.12 1/2, Kansas City $1.02 to $1.05; St. Louis $1.06 1/2. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.09 to $1.11; Kansas City 74¢, Minneapolis 71 1/4 to 71 3/4¢. No.3 yellow corn St. Louis 76 to 77¢ Minneapolis 69 3/4 to 70 3/4¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 3/4 to 48¢, St. Louis 48 3/4 to 49¢, Kansas City 47 3/4 to 48¢, Minneapolis 44 1/8 to 44 5/8.

Spot cotton down 1 point, closing at 30.26¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 7 points, closing at 31.15¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 13,	May 12,	May 12, 1923.
20 Industrials	89.69	89.48	95.40
20 R.R. stocks	81.63	81.58	81.68

(Wall St. Jour., May14.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 15, 1924.

Section 1

Farm Relief Bill — A new farm relief bill providing for the creation of agricultural associations with power to lend money on farm products, limit production and market commodities was presented May 14 by Senator Smith. The bill was drawn, its proponents said, with the idea of providing a compromise upon which the whole strength of the farm bloc in the Senate could be centered. It provides that associations shall be organized to handle the principal farm commodities, with one particular crop allotted to each association. This arrangement is designed to simplify the problem by obviating differences between producers of various crops. (Press, May 15.)

Freight Rate Legislation — Continuing consideration of the army appropriation bill, with the Gooding rider designed to limit the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission in allowing railroads to deviate from the long and short haul requirements of existing law, was under debate yesterday. Speaking on the Gooding rider, Senator Brookhart declared railroad freight charges can be reduced $1,000,000,000 a year without lowering wages of railway workers or reducing the income of investors. (Press, May 15.)

Congressional Legislation — In an editorial review of legislation, The Philadelphia Ledger to-day says: "In a conference with President Coolidge, Republican and Democratic House leaders have reached an agreement to work for the adjournment of Congress June 7. By and large the country will approve that agreement. The work of the House, apart from passing upon the McNary-Haugen and other farm-relief bills, is well advanced. Appropriation bills and taxation are out of the way. The House has said its say on immigration. It is now puttering about with rail legislation, but its general disposition is to go easy with the railroads this session. The Senate is another matter. There the inclination is to pile more and more measures on top of the legislative jam that will grow worse with every day from now until June 1. The Senate is the uncertain factor in the proposed early adjournment."

Flour Rail Rates Cut in Canada — An Ottawa dispatch to the press of May 15 states that Canadian railways were directed May 14 by the Board of Railway Commissioners to cut freight rates on flour from one-half cent to one cent from points in the Province of Ontario to Atlantic seaport cities in the United States and Montreal, Quebec, St. John and Halifax in the Dominion. The order covers rates to New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, Portland and other export cities in the United States. It stipulates that, with the addition of a one-cent stopover charge, the reduced rates will apply on lake-shipped grain milled in transit at stations other than the specified points of rail-shipment origin in Canada.

Section 2

Bankers and Farmers in Delaware

A Newark, Del., dispatch to the press of May 14 states that at a banker-farmer conference at the University of Delaware May 13 the following projects were recommended to the State Bankers' Association as ways in which the Delaware farmer could be helped: Assist in boys and girls' club work, encouragement of bank credit vs. commercial credits, encouragement of transfer of mortgages held by local banks,to the Federal Land bank, in securing better farm leases and encourage farmers to keep book account of their business.

Cotton Market Situation

Theo. Price, in Commerce and Finance for May 14, says: "The cotton manufacturers are now employed in 'stretching the blanket' of this season's supply so that it will cover the consumption until the new crop is available. Various means of effecting this are being employed. Some mills that have more cotton than they need are selling it to their competitors who are not so well supplied. Others are running part time or shutting down entirely. In New England the curtailment probably averages 33 per cent. In the South it is estimated at 15 per cent. The fact that the new crop deliveries are selling at about four cents less than the summer positions makes the manufacturer's position difficult for he is faced with a corresponding loss on the cotton and goods that he carries over. The temptation to shut down is therefore great but some are deterred from yielding to it because it means the distress and dispersion of their employees....Meantime it is worth noting that exports for the season (including the amount on shipboard, not cleared) are now about 5,200,000 bales; that the foreigners are still buying and that there is every indication they will take 5,800,000 bales if they can get it; that conditions abroad are still on the mend; that spinners' takings of American cotton last week were nearly 20,000 bales in excess of the same week in 1923; that there has been a sharp advance in the price of Egyptian cotton; that the dry goods market is described as 'showing more resistance to price declines,' and that at the meeting of the Southern Wholesale Dry Goods Association held in Charlotte, N.C., last week the Secretary, Norman Johnson, announced that 'a turn for the better has come in the dry goods trade and a satisfactory business is in prospect.'"

Cotton Statistics Advisers

The Journal of Commerce for May 14 says: "Secretary Hoover announced May 13 the appointment of a standing advisory committee on the compilation of statistics of cotton in the Commerce Department. Formation of such a committee in the interest of accurate Government cotton reports was recommended by the special committee of experts which recently revived the cotton stocks figures of the Census Bureau. The standing advisory committee named by Mr.Hoover is composed of David C. Reed, Austin, Texas; J. H. Manning, of Latta, S.C.; E. C. Brooks, Raleigh, N.C.; M. Jacoway, of Little Rock, Ark., and L. B. Jackson, of Atlanta. Commenting upon the cotton textile situation to-day, Mr. Hoover observed several factors as tending to produce slackness. Falling exports were noted by Mr. Hoover, as well as increases in the importations of some classes of cotton goods. Manufacturers, he declared, maintain also that high prices for cotton have reacted against purchases of

cotton textiles in this country. Mr. Hoover also suggested that the growth of automobile owners was also partially responsible for the lessened consumption of cotton textiles. He expressed a belief that many persons have become less concerned with clothing than with purchasing an automobile, and advanced this situation as in part responsible for the steadily lessening textile consumption during the past two years."

Dairy Organization Expansion — The National Dairy Products Corporation, which was organized about a year ago to take over milk and ice cream distributors in the Chicago and Pittsburgh districts, is negotiating to take over a large ice cream manufacturing and distributing company in the metropolitan district, according to reports in the financial district May 13. The national organization operates the Hydrox Corporation of Chicago and the Reich-McJunkin Dairy Company of Pittsburgh. (N.Y.Times, May 14.)

Dollar at 100 cents, According to Moody — John Moody, of Moody's Investor's Service, told the American Iron, Steel and Heavy Hardware Association at its fifteenth annual convention at New York, May 13, that prosperous financial conditions throughout the country had made the 1924 dollar as good as the dollar of 1913. (Press, May 14.)

Farm Borrowing Declines in Maryland — A Baltimore dispatch to the press of May 14 states that farmers of Maryland and neighboring sections who finance the major part of their needs through the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore and its auxiliary, the Intermediate Credit Bank, are not borrowing as much as they did a year ago, according to V. Vaiden, president of the institutions. Applications for loans for the first quarter of the current year were about $2,000,000 less than in the corresponding period a year ago. One reason given is that farmers, as a whole, are not making preparations for expansion. High cost of labor, taxes and freight rates are said to be adversely affecting agriculture.

Grain Futures Act in Canada — An Ottawa dispatch to the press of May 14 states that the Supreme Court of Canada May 13 declared the Grain Futures act passed by the Legislature of Manitoba last year to be unconstitutional. The act imposed a tax on grain sold for future delivery. (Press, May 14.)

Iowa Farmer Credit — A Grand Rapids, Iowa, dispatch to the press of May 14 states that James E. Hamilton, president of Merchants' National Bank of Grand Rapids, associated with C. H. MacNider, bank president of Mason City; B. F. Kauffman and Homer A. Miller, of Des Moines; William Heuer, Davenport; J. F. Webber, Ottumwa; Emil Webbles, Burlington; George Schaller, Storm Lake, and C. D. Cass, Fort Dodge, have organized the Iowa Agricultural Corporation, with capital of $500,000 for the purpose of benefiting agriculture. The capital may be increased to $1.000,000 later. The prime object of the corporation is to make loans on notes, mortgages, livestock and for the development of real and personal property. The incorporators have for years taken active interest in the success of the farmer.

McNary-Haugen Bill

An editorial in the Woodburn (Oregon) Independent of March 8 says: "We hear of some holding up their hands in horror at the McNary-McHaugen bill and imagining all sorts of harmful happenings when they think of the idea of Government paternalism, but doubtless they have not read the many national bank acts in an intelligent manner. The Government has been paternalistic in several particulars and is becoming more so."

Pulp Industry in Canada

An Ottawa dispatch to the press of May 11 states that neither exports of newsprint in March, nor exports of pulpwood, confirm reports that, owing to slackening of demand, there will be slowing down in the pulp and paper industry. Exports of pulpwood to the United States reached the high point of 195,924 cords, slightly more than 64,000 in excess of shipments in February and 82,500 over those for March, 1923. This is about the peak in shipments of this nature.

Russia's Crops

A Berlin dispatch to the press of May 12 states that the report of the Russian Minister of Agriculture shows an unfavorable outlook for that country's crops. The conditions of wheat, rye and barley are all materially below those of a year ago. Six per cent of the winter wheat area has had to be replowed, owing to destruction of the growing crops by frost, and 10 per cent of the rye crop had similarly to be replanted.

World Trade

An editorial in The Washington Post for May 14 says: "The report that the nations are preparing for strenuous competition in world trade finds the United States far advanced in such preparation. With its industries humming and its commerce expanding, it has large and significant gains to its credit. While opportunities for trade expansion offered by post-war conditions may not have been grasped to the full by this Nation, they have been sufficiently seized and utilized to give American industry a good lead in the coming race, and domestic conditions, if permitted to continue in prosperity, will make for practically unlimited expansion. America has the means to assure great gains in such competition and is headed in the right direction. By protecting its own producers the United States makes sure of possessing the American market, the largest and most profitable in the world. With that advantage gained, it can defeat its rivals in world commerce."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 14: Round White potatoes closed at $1.65 to $1.85 sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites steady to firm at $1.10 to $1.30 in Chicago. Florida Spaulding Rose generally 50¢ to $1.50 higher at $8.25 to $9.50 per double head barrel in leading markets; $7.50 f.o.b. Texas yellow Bermuda onions 25 to 50¢ higher, selling at $1.90 to $2 per standard crate in eastern cities; $1.50 to $1.75 in midwestern markets; $1.25 f.o.b. Tennessee Klondike strawberries slightly weaker at $4 to $4.25 per 24-quart crate in Cincinnati and Chicago; $2.75 f.o.b. Norfolk sections of Virginia Klondikes 17 to 20¢ quart basis in New York and Baltimore.

Chicago hog prices closed at $7.50 for the top and $7.25 to $7.45 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.25 to $7.45 for the bulk, feeder steers $5.75 to $10; fat lambs $13 to $15.25 and yearlings $10.25 to $13.25.

Average grain prices quoted May 14: No.1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.14 3/4 to $1.31 3/4. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.06 3/4 to $1.15 1/2, Kansas City $1.03 to $1.10, St. Louis $1.07. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.11 to $1.12. No.3 red winter Kansas City $1.03, Chicago $1.06. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 77 3/4 to 78 1/4¢, Minneapolis 71 1/2 to 72¢. No.3 yellow Kansas City 73 1/2¢, St. Louis 76 1/2 to 77¢, Minneapolis 70 to 71¢; No.3 white oats Chicago 48¢, Minneapolis 44 1/4 to 44 3/4¢, Kansas City 48¢, St. Louis 49 1/4¢.

Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter to-day: New York 40¢, Chicago 37 1/2¢, Boston 40¢, Philadelphia 40 3/4¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 14,	May 13,	May 14, 1923.
20 Industrials	88.77	89.69	96.91
20 R.R. stocks	81.59	81.63	82.71

(Wall St. Jour., May 15.)

DAILY DIGEST

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Section 1 May 16, 1924.

The President Vetoes Soldier Bonus Bill — President Coolidge sent his second veto to Congress yesterday when he transmitted to the House a message disapproving the soldiers' bonus bill. The President's argument followed closely that of his first veto message on the Bursum pension bill, and he dwelt particularly on the inability of the Government to meet the heavy expenditure that would be entailed by the bonus bill. He declared that there was no moral justification for such compensation after the insurance already provided for the service men and the provisions made for the wounded and ill. (Press, May 16.)

Government Fund Disbursement — Secretaries Wallace, Hoover and Davis, in letters to the House juridiciary committee yesterday, recommended legislation to empower the Attorney General to act as arbiter in disputes over disbursement of Government funds between Executive Departments and the Comptroller General. (Press, May 16.)

Japanese Immigration Legislation — Both the Senate and the House yesterday agreed to the conference report on the immigration bill containing the Japanese exclusion clause, effective July 1. The bill now goes to the President. (Press, May 16.)

Agricultural Relief Legislation — Representative Howard, of Nebraska, yesterday introduced a resolution for a special congressional committee to seek a remedy for the present depression in the agricultural industry.(Press, May 16.)

Export Wheat Scheme — Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, in to-day's issue, says: "A substitute for the McNary-Haugen bill and for all other crop subsidies proposed for the relief of the farmer has been evolved by a Chicago statistician. The plan, it is asserted, would place no burden or responsibility whatever on the farmer and its benefits would go immediately and completely to him. The scheme so appeals to some of those who have seen it, it is declared, that a delegation will leave immediately for Washington to place the matter before Congress. The whole plan may be explained in two paragraphs: 'Negotiable Federal certificates of specific value shall be issued for every bushel of American wheat and its equivalent in wheat product cleared for export, and such certificates shall be honored by the Treasury Department at their face value in collection of customs duties. Congress shall authorize the appointment of a commission empowered to determine the amount per bushel to be paid as a premium by means of these certificates and to change this rate from time to time as business and agricultural conditions seem to warrant....."

Section 2

Butter Substitutes An editorial in The Pacific Homestead for May 8 says: "If any doubt has existed as to the importance of eliminating butter substitutes from dishonest competition with butter, a glance at the figures showing the increase in the sale of oleomargarine this year over last year should be convincing. During the first three months of 1923, the sale of oleomargarine as shown by the internal revenue tax was 60,067,597 pounds. During the first three months of 1924 the sale amounted to 70,702,526 pounds. This is an increase of 18 per cent in one year. These figures show the constant menace which the traffic in butter substitutes holds over the American dairy industry. Figures produced in the recent tariff hearing show that out of vegetable oils and fats, the imports of which are chiefly from the Philippines and the East Indies, more than a billion pounds of lard substitutes are made, every pound entering into competition with both American lard and butter...It thus becomes plain that the future of the dairy industry depends entirely upon eliminating butter substitutes. If we are going to permit the continual encroachment of substitutes, then we had just as well give up dairying and go into something else."

Capital and Turnover The Country Gentleman for May 17 says: "According to the last census, manufacture had invested in the year 1919 approximately forty-four and a half billions of capital and produced sixty-two and a half billions of goods during that year--or 140 per cent of the capital. Agriculture is reported as having invested at the same time seventy-eight billions of capital, from which it produced, in 1919, twenty-one and a half billions of product--27 1/2 per cent of the capital invested as against 140 per cent for manufacture. This means that capital invested in manufacture will turn itself over into the form of goods every eight or nine months while capital invested in farming will require almost four years. It means, too, that the same percentage of profit on the goods produced would make more than five times the rate of income on the capital invested in manufacture as compared with that invested in farming, provided, of course, that the proportion of capital to labor and of wear and tear were approximately equal, as to which, and the comparative hazards, there is no means of knowing accurately. One thing is clear, however: the farmer is at a disadvantage in the matter of turnover, and can not so quickly either expand or 'liquidate' as can the manufacturer. It requires a year to determine his pig output, four to five years that of his cattle, and a good number of seasons to change his rotations. All of which cheapens mightily the advice so freely given the farmer to adjust his production promptly to the prospective needs. It is most excellent advice in the abstract but exceedingly difficult ofttimes in the concrete without losing more than is gained."

Cotton Exports Manufacturers Record for May 15 says: "From the beginning of the cotton crop season Germany has taken nearly 300,000 bales more American cotton up to May 3 than she had taken in the corresponding time last year. Foreign exports for that period showed a gain of nearly 800,000 bales. The exports for the week ended May 3 amounted to 132,966 bales, compared with 31,799 bales for the same

week in 1923, while the exports from August 1 to May 2 amounted to 5,082,633 bales, compared with 4,282,305 bales for the corresponding period last season. During the same period northern spinners took 490,000 bales less than last year, and southern spinners took 495,000 bales less. Thus while American mills decreased their takings by 985,000 bales, foreigners took an increase of 800,000 bales. Evidently foreign spinners proved in this case smarter traders than our American mill people... They got the bulge on our American buyers and began very early last year buying very heavily from the moment the crop began to come on the market in Texas. And yet people are still talking about the inability to find a foreign market for our agricultural products. In this particular case the foreigners have enormously increased their purchases at the expense of American producers. Is it better to have sold raw material abroad than to have it manufactured in our own country, by our own mills, furnishing employment to our own people? In the meantime we have been buying very heavily of foreign cotton goods. The foreigners have been buying our raw material, turning it into the finished product and shipping it back to us on a very heavy scale. There is no wonder, under these conditions, that the cotton manufacturers of New England and of the South are beginning to realize that the tariff on cotton goods is not high enough to protect the textile interests of this country."

Cotton Goods Inquiry

The New York Times for May 15 says: "According to Frederic B. Shipley, president of the National Council of American Importers and Traders, no greater public service could be performed at the present time than an investigation by the United States Tariff Commission of cotton manufacturing in America. In a statement made public yesterday, Mr. Shipley declared that an investigation by the Tariff Commission of cotton goods imports would be welcomed, and that if this investigation is conducted the American people may then learn why they are paying so much for their clothing. The result, he pointed out, is bound to be beneficial to the cotton goods industry as well as to the people."

Cotton Industry

An editorial in The New York Times for May 15 says: "The Senate has instructed the Tariff Commission to answer ten questions asked by Senator Walsh of Massachusetts seconded by Senator Lodge. The New England States doubtless know that the depression in the textile industry is world-wide and that the tariff has not saved them. But they seem to think it might help if only the schedules were suitably hoisted. Many cotton mills are running half time and are passing or reducing dividends. Similar representations are made to the Tariff Commission on behalf of the woolen trade....Senators from the South are less disturbed. There is reaction in the South also, but Congressmen from that section blame the price of cotton rather than the tariff. They think there is something like a buyers' strike against the cost of cotton cloths, and one of them suggests a conspiracy between foreign and American buyers of raw cotton to control the price and prevent total exhaustion of the supply before the next crop is available. It is plain that jumping up the tariff rates on cotton goods would not protect the New England mills against competitors in the South....."

Dairy Industry

"A Dairy Dividend" is the title of an editorial in The Wall Street Journal for May 15, which says: "A news dispatch from the Northwest says that a dairy loan association in Montana has declared its third semi-annual dividend of 4½ per cent. This announcement may well concern Wall Street more than the declaration, or the passing of a dividend by many of the concerns listed on the Stock Exchange. It can not be too often repeated that Wall Street is intensely interested in the welfare of agriculture. Nothing can help or hurt the farmers without helping or hurting Wall Street. This is a fact well understood here if not in demagogue circles. The New York Cotton Exchange does not raise a bale of cotton, but every season it contributes a large amount of money for the campaign against the boll weevil in the South. When, this spring, a $10,000,000 corporation for the relief of the agricultural emergency in the Northwest was organized New York, Philadelphia and other eastern centers promptly furnished one-half the capital. Of that half the greater part was contributed by Wall Street. Some of the larger firms and banks here subscribed $500,000 each, with no expectation or hope of profit. The Agricultural Finance Corporation is now functioning. One of its plans is to help the all-wheat farmers into a system of diversification and dairying. Under the leadership of the local banks in Minot, North Dakota, a dairy association is being organized. It will follow the Montana form, which is built upon the plan of mutual building and loan associations. The president of the Agricultural Finance Corporation announces that the corporation will back this association and that the plan is to be carried out in other communities. This corporation is beginning its work in the right way. There have been so many hard luck stories coming from the Northwest, which grew as they traveled East, that it is refreshing to see the constructive efforts being put into operation. Evidently there is no intention of destroying the wheat growing business; instead, an effort will be made to put it on a profitable basis. It is in these Northwestern States that the hard spring wheat is raised. This wheat shares with the hard winter of the central Great Plains in high protein content. As bakers demand a strong flour, millers will pay a premium for this wheat over the soft and semi-hards unless there is an oversupply. Wherever diversification and dairying can be practiced the farmer devoting part of his land to the production of this wheat will be insured against crop failures or an oversupplied market. The president of the Agricultural Finance Corporation says that in five years that section will be the most prosperous of the whole Northwest. As Wall Street is interested in the future prosperity of Montana, the Dakotas and Minnesota, it is glad to hear this prediction of the head of the corporation. For the same reason it is interested in the announcement of the dividend paid by a dairy association that may well call itself a pioneer of prosperity."

Food and Drugs Control

The Florida Times-Union for May 6 says: "Addressing the Southeastern States Association of Food and Drug Officials, recently in convention in Jacksonville, State Chemist Rose, of Florida, argued against uniform dairy, food and drug laws. It is perhaps unusual to find a champion of State rights and privileges among

officials and organizations directly connected with articles of inter-State trade. The reasons given by Mr. Rose, however, were clearly explained, and there can be no denying the truth of his conclusions. In the course of the address Mr. Rose said:...."In my opinion, any legislation, national or State, that attempts to debar or prevent the sale of any recognized wholesome food product, properly and truthfully labeled, with no misrepresentation by "design or device," misleading illustration or picture, or otherwise deceptive, would be an economic blunder, bearing heavily upon the manufacturer (or producer) of these valuable and well-known products; and economic waste of most valuable food, and would violate the rights of many of our producers and manufacturers of foods, and the rights of our citizens generally. We should always remember that "where the rights of one citizen end, the rights of all other citizens begin."' No one could dispute the statement regarding the necessity for expedition in the handling of products indicated. While there are dishonest persons ready to take advantage of laxity in inspection laws, and occasionally the public is defrauded, the great majority of those who are in the business are honest and with a desire to retain their trade, go about the details in a proper way and need but little disciplining. Efforts are being made to centralize, standardize and harass everything in this country. Bureaus and boards and commissions and committees are being urged without end. It is easy to understand that many of the requests for more inspection, more laws, more Government and more regulations have a selfish basis, while others are the product of idle brains and schemes of idealists who imagine life a mechanical unit with absolute needs of oil and power at stated intervals and no deviation from the circle of its fly-wheel. Cooperation is the means for the best results, according to Mr. Rose, telling of the progress made and the understanding between sections. Where there is honest effort made to serve the people well and the conditions in one part of the country demand a little difference in the service, compared with that of another section, it would be hurtful to force uniformity. Let well enough alone, is evidently the very good advice of Florida's State chemist."

Rubber Lands

The Journal of Commerce for May 15 says: "Secretary of Agriculture Wallace has ascertained that there are 'various tracts of land in the Philippine Islands with soil well adapted for rubber plantations.' This fact has been reported in years past by the Department of Agriculture of the Philippines and by the Bureau of Insular Affairs at Washington on many different occasions. About twenty years ago a bill was introduced in Congress for the purpose of exploiting these Philippine rubber lands with imported labor, such labor to be returned to the country from which it came after its service was completed. The bill was defeated and a restrictive policy was applied to immigration, which has continued in effect since. Everyone who knows anything about the Philippines knows that it is impossible to develop rubber lands there without foreign labor. The present population of the islands is well employed and has no need to work for nominal wages at rubber culture."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 15: Eastern Round White potatoes steady at $1.65 to $1.85 sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites firm at $1.15 to $1.30 in Chicago. Florida Spaulding Rose stronger in eastern cities at $8.50 to $9 per double head barrel; slightly weaker in Chicago at $8; barely steady at shipping points at $7. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions generally 15 to 25¢ higher, closing at $1.75 to $2 per standard crate in city markets; $1.20 to $1.25 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage 25¢ higher in New York at $2.75 to $3 per 1 1/2 bu. hamper; slightly weaker in Philadelphia and Baltimore at $1.75 to $2.35; steady at $1.50 f.o.b. Tennessee Klondike strawberries sold at $3.50 to $4 per 24-quart crate in midwestern markets; $2.75 to $3.25 f.o.b.

Chicago hog prices closed at $7.60 for the top and $7.25 to $7.55 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.35 to $11.60; butcher cows and heifers $4 to $10.25; feeder steers $5.75 to $9.25; light and medium weight veal calves $8 to $11.25; fat lambs $13.50 to $15.65; yearlings $10.75 to $13.75 and fat ewes $5 to $8.65.

Average grain prices quoted May 15: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.15 1/4 to $1.32 1/4. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.07 to $1.15, St. Louis $1.07, Kansas City $1.01 to $1.06. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.12, Kansas City $1.02 to $1.03. No.3 red winter Chicago $1.04 3/4 to $1.06 1/4. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 77 3/4 to 78¢, No.3 yellow St. Louis 76 to 77¢, Kansas City 73 to 73 1/2¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 78 to 79¢, Kansas City 73 to 74¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 1/2 to 48 3/4¢, St. Louis 48 3/4 to 49 1/4¢, Kansas City 48 3/4¢.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 39 1/2¢, Chicago 37 1/2¢, Boston 40¢, Philadelphia 40 1/4¢.

Spot cotton up 41 points, closing at 30.74¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 32 points, closing at 31.68¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 15,	May 14,	May 15, 1923.
20 Industrials	89.18	88.77	95.96
20 R.R. stocks	81.77	81.59	81.87

(Wall St. Jour., May 16.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 17, 1924.

Section 1

Legislation on Potash Deposits — A bill which would authorize the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Geological Survey to determine the location of potash deposits and improved methods of recovering the commodity was favorably reported in the Senate yesterday. (Press, May 17.)

McNary-Haugen Bill — A vigorous attack on the McNary-Haugen agricultural bill was made yesterday before the House rules committee by Representative Aswell, a member of the agriculture committee, while a special rule to bring the measure to the floor of the House was being requested by other members. The rules committee adjourned until to-day without reaching a decision, but it has been indicated that it would grant a special rule for the measure in time to have it taken up in the House early next week. (Press, May 17.)

Deficiency Bill — The House May 15 passed the second urgent deficiency bill, carrying an appropriation of $2,317,000. The Senate appropriations committee yesterday reported the bill with only one minor amendment to the House measure. (Press, May 17.)

Business Conditions — Business conditions generally throughout the United States are fundamentally sound, according to Otto Kahn, the New York banker, who discussed business and finance with President Coolidge yesterday. Mr. Kahn has formed his opinion from his observations and from information from various sources. He told the President that while future business orders were not as large as had been expected there was being recorded a steady stream of orders for goods and products for immediate delivery. This, Mr. Kahn told the President, indicated a healthy condition. (Press, May 17.)

Muscle Shoals — Government ownership and operation of Muscle Shoals would have the support of power companies in the South, E. A. Yates, general manager of the Alabama Power Company, told the Senate agricultural committee at May 15 hearing. The power companies would purchase the power from the Government and distribute it over their interconnecting transmission lines under the provisions of the Federal Waterpower act, Yates said. This would mean the Government would have entire ownership and control of the property at all times, he added. (Press, May 16.)

Section 2

Cotton

In an editorial entitled "Undervaluing the Enemy," The Wall Street Journal for May 16 says: "Last January the South experienced considerable and general cold weather. The Department of Agriculture now says that farmers, relying upon that fact, are expecting only a light invasion of the boll weevil. Experience older than cotton or the South should teach our farmers that it is always rash to undervalue an adversary....Whatever may be the price of liberty, eternal vigilance is the price of cotton. So long as there are weevils in existence it is necessary for the farmers to fight them. Destruction of the insects, and cultural methods to induce early fruiting of cotton bolls will be as necessary this year as last. If nature helps to control the pest this summer so much the better for our farmers, who will need all the aid they can get. But if the weather favors the propagation of the insects, irrespective of the cold spell in January, there will be a rude awakening for the people who have rested on a blind hope that the weevil was in any large measure killed off. Consumption of American cotton next season should be at least as large as that of the immediate past. The European outlook is more hopeful, suggesting still greater consumption. Stocks of American-grown cotton in the United States are small. Only a radical curtailment of both consumption and exports for the remainder of this season can prevent an almost total depletion of supply. It ought to be self-evident that the world can not safely go into another cotton season with anything like the small crops produced in the past two years. There is every likelihood that the price will be sufficient to make cotton valuable to the producers, even if the crop is fairly large. It is to their interest to lose no more than is possible through an underestimate of the weevil danger. It is a realdanger, and there is no sense in encouraging the cotton grower to continue dwelling in a fool's paradise. Fatalism is out of date and would be even if the prospective cotton crop were out of danger."

Dairying in the Northwest

An editorial in The Pacific Dairy Review for May 8 says: "....The development of the dairy industry in the Northwest will be worth watching. We predict that within the next 25 years Washington and Oregon will be to the Pacific coast in dairy production what Minnesota and Wisconsin are to the East."

Dairy Organization

An editorial in The Rural New Yorker for May 17 says: "The announcement on May 3 of a reduction of 47 cents per 100 lbs. for May milk by the League pool, followed by a corresponding reduction by the other groups, emphasizes anew the need of a unification committee. Provision for it was made none too soon. For the good of both members and leaders we must get away from the idea that the dairy organization is the group of leaders in the office, and visualize the organization in the men on the farms and in the barns. These dairymen are the real organization. No official group could exist without them. When they speak wise leaders will listen. These dairymen are entitled to a living price for milk. They will not go on indefinitely producing at a loss. Neither will they abandon their business. If the leaders should unfortunately fail them in this need dairymen will find a way to do it themselves, and it will be done right."

Diversification in the South

"Diversified Agriculture Enriching the South" is the title of an article by Rolard Turner in Manufacturers Record for May 15. It says in part: "The Central South at last has a real dairy industry. Although there is much yet to be done, the idea of the value of cows has been successfully gotten over to the farmers of the cotton growing sections of the South and to business men and all who are interested in the South's agricultural industry and it is last appreciated very fully that with the development of diversifi farm production and the adding of dairy cows, poultry and hogs, as permanent phases on every farm, undreamed of prosperity will rise and that the doubts, fears, and danger of periods of depression in so far as the farming interest is concerned will disappear, never to return. The value of creamery butter alone produced in 1923 in the States of Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida and Louisiana was considerably more than $25,000,000. The percentage of increase in creamery butter production in these States for 1923 over 1922 ranges from 8 per cent in Virginia and Kentucky to more than 220 per cent in Georgia. This indicates the proportions to which the dairy industry has already grown, and when considered in connection with the whole milk and sweet cream production which goes to supply the demand in our cities and towns for fresh milk and cream we can not but reach the conclusion that the dairy industry has arrived and is now one of the substantial sources of income for the southern farme Some of these States have for many years been noted for their fine dairy stock, but this industry had hardly been developed in the cotton-growing States."

Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control

An editorial in The Pacific Dairy Review for May 8 says: "The advantage of industries being well organized has again been demonstrated in connection with the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in California. Farmers represent the last branch of industry to realize what organization means but they are getting to see that it takes mass-movement to make things go....The foot-and-mouth fight in California is in striking contrast with the outbreak in the East in 1914 and 1915 when, through lack of central authority and direction by States, officials and individuals working at cross-purposes, the epidemic spread through twenty-two States."

Foreign Trade

The Journal of Commerce for May 15 says: "Some slight increase is revealed in both imports and exports in the figures just made public by the Department of Commerce, the former growing by about $3,500,000 and the latter by about $7,500,000. It is nevertheless quite apparent that the course of our foreign trade is running approximately as it has been doing for some time past. Imports are substantially smaller than they were at this time last year and exports measureably larger, at all events as measured in dollar value. That our foreign sales are still far below what they ought to be and what they must be fully to meet the needs of our economic situation is as plainly true as it has been for a long time past. Not the least significant fact shown in the recent figures just referred to is the continued inflow of gold. The net

importation of gold during last month amounted to a little more than $45,000,000, as compared with $33,500,000 in March and $8,500,000 in April, 1923. Contrary to predictions this inflow of useless yellow metal is more or less certain to continue indefinitely as long as our foreign policies remain what they now are. It is one, if only one, of the unfortunate results of our absolute refusal to adjust ourselves to post-war economic conditions."

Grain Elevators Losing

A Cleveland dispatch to the press of May 15 states that the auditing department of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation shows that about one-third of the grain elevators owned by the farmers are losing money. The department has analyzed statements of thirty-nine elevators, and of these, twelve showed losses for 1923. This percentage, it is believed, will be maintained by reports from all other sections of the State. Nineteen out of the thirty-nine reports showed that the capital stock had been impaired. In every case where an elevator lost money last year it had an impaired capital at the beginning of this year. The figures do not take into account the savings the elevators made for customers and shareholders either on sales of grain or purchases of feeds, nor patronage dividends to the sharenolders where such dividends are paid, but they are regarded by the bureau as showing the need for making stronger business units of the elevators. One elevator made 7 per cent on its operations, and most of those that had profits reported gains of 1 or 2 per cent.

Grain Marketing

Chicago Daily Drovers Journal for May 13 says: "Does it pay to hold grain? Not always, if we are to judge by an analysis of grain prices made by the college of agriculture, University of Missouri. The study went back 30 years, and some things learned are set forth by D. R. Cowan of that institution. It was found that more than half the wheat and corn is marketed the first four months after harvest. Yet, we are given to understand that on the average the price doesn't go up profitably after the grain has left farmers' hands, for 'the average rise in price from month to month is not always enough to cover the holding costs, including shrink, storage, interest and insurance.' In other words, even were every farmer in position to hold his grain it wouldn't always pay to do so. This is not the first study of its kind that has been made. So far as we are aware all such studies are in agreement on this point--that holding doesn't always pay. Yet farmers have been told time and again, and many of them believe, that the trade puts the price of grain up after the bulk of farmers have sold, and the dealer alone makes the profit. Believing what is not true can't do us any good. The Missouri report brought out some figures on the cost of marketing that farmers should want to see. We quote: 'Assuming the (cooperative marketing) pool's expenses for holding the grain are as low as the present competitive carrying charges, the extra cost of administering the pool must be deducted. For the North Dakota, Oklahoma, and Texas pools this cost was over 2 cents per bushel in 1923. When this cost is considered in connection with the competition offered by the present low carrying cost

the average loss per bushel to the farmer from holding, and feeding the market by means of a large cooperative pool, is 4 cents per bushel on hard wheat, $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents on red wheat, 1 1-5 cents on corn, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents on oats.'....In summing up the conclusions from this study, the Missouri statement says: 'Under the present system there is no combine in the grain market. The individual grain speculators use their most careful judgment and experience in trying to foresee what the price at future months in the year is likely to be. They compete with each other in buying the new crop when it comes to market and this maintains a price so high in the fall that on an average the rise in price until spring is barely enough to cover the cost of carrying.'"

Russian Conditions Clinton W. Gilbert, staff correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, who has just returned from Moscow, giving his observations in the issues of May 14 and 15, says: "....Let us grant that the revolution has been a success for Russia. I am inclined to think that it has. It has pulled together a country that was utterly wrecked by the war. The people are at work and are able to live. While there is little or no comfort in Russia, there is little or no absolute poverty. The currency has been stabilized and the budget nearly balanced. But it will take many years and vastly greater accomplishments to make any modern country believe that the revolution has anything to offer it in the way of better conditions of life. The romance of the revolution is gone. It now faces the almost superhuman task of justifying itself as a rival to a capitalistic organization of society as a producer of the general well-being. The test is not fair, perhaps. Capitalism starts off with twentieth-century America, let us say. And Sovietism starts off with Middle-Age Russia. But that is the test that has to be met if there is going to be any world revolution....The idea that the whole world would come eagerly to Moscow is gone. It may be professed as a faith, but it is no longer a working hypothesis. Now Moscow is going painfully to the world. I think the Soviet leaders realize the truth....that the revolution must not only succeed for Russia but that it must be a success for the world in general before the world will come to Moscow. Anyway, they are facing the painful task of meeting the world on its own terms and proving that sovietism is not merely successful as a form of government but as an organization for producing the necessities of life and for increasing the general well-being."

"Side-Line" Farmers An editorial in The Rural New Yorker for May 10 says: "There are thousands of side-line farmers in the country. They are a little different from gentlemen farmers. They have part of their money invested in a piece of land which they farm by proxy. They could live without the farm income--in fact they usually lose money on their essay into agriculture. Still they keep on and, in some cases, they cause quite a little competition with real farmers. Their influence in the community is not always good. They make hired men discontented by paying more than the regular wage, and they often tempt good men to break their agreement and leave their jobs. The influence of their family and social life upon young people is often bad. Some of these side-line farmers are planning for great operations this year. They intend to break up the face of the earth and plant more than ever before. It is a mistake for them

to try to increase production in this way. They do not need the money, and by doing all they can to over-supply the market they are working a direct injury to those farmers who have no outside income and must depend on sales of their crops to carry them through. The gentlemen and the side-line farmers ought to go slow this year. Let them devote their energies to improving their farms rather than in crowding production, and give the practical farmers a fair chance to obtain reasonable prices."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 16: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.65 for the top and $7.30 to $7.60 for the bulk; medium and good beef steers $8.35 to $11.60; butcher cows and heifers steady at $4.25 to $10.50; feeder steers $5.50 to $10; light and medium weight veal calves $8 to $11.25; fat lambs $13.50 to $16.65; yearlings $10.75 to $13.75; fat ewes $5 to $8.65.

Eastern Round White potatoes steady at $1.65 to $1.85 sacked per 100 lbs. Florida Spaulding Rose slightly weaker in New York and Chicago, ranging generally $8 to $9 per double head barrel in city markets; $7 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage in New York $2.50 to $3 per 1 1/2 bu. hamper; slightly weaker elsewhere at $1.75 to $2.50; lower at $1.25 to $1.50 f.o.b. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions steady to stronger, closing at $1.75 to $2 per standard crate in consuming centers; $1.15 f.o.b. Tennessee Klondike strawberries weak in Chicago at $3.25 to $3.50 per 24-quart crate; slightly weaker at $2.50 f.o.b.

Grain prices quoted May 16: No.1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.15 to $1.22. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.07; Kansas City $1.04 to $1.06. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.10 1/2 to $1.12; Kansas City $1.02 to $1.03. No.3 red Chicago $1.04 3/4 to $1.06 1/4; No.2 yellow corn Chicago 78 1/2¢; Minneapolis 71 3/4 to 72¢. No.3 yellow St. Louis 77 1/2 to 78¢; Kansas City 74 1/2¢; Minneapolis 70 1/2 to 71¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 78 1/2 to 79 1/2¢; Kansas City 74 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 3/4 to 48 1/2¢; St. Louis 49 1/4 to 49 3/4¢; Kansas City 48 1/2 to 48 3/4¢; Minneapolis 44 1/2 to 45¢.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 38 1/2¢; Chicago 37 1/2¢; Philadelphia 39¢; Boston 39 1/2¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 36 points, closing at 30.38¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 55 points, closing at 31.13¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 16,	May 15,	May 16, 1923.
20 Industrials	89.78	89.18	95.53
20 R.R. stocks	82.07	81.77	81.70

(Wall St. Jour., May 17.)

DAILY DIGEST

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May 19, 1924.

Section 1

The President's Bonus Veto Overridden — The soldier bonus bill was passed over President Coolidge's veto in the House May 17 by a vote of 313 to 78, according to the press of May 18, which states also that there are indications of increasing support for the President in the Senate.

Senator Smith's Agricultural Bill — Senator Smith May 17 formally introduced his agricultural relief bill providing for creation of a Federal cooperative association, with separate and distinct member associations to handle the individual problem of the growers of the principal farm crops. (Press, May 18.)

Freight Legislation — By a vote of 49 to 25, the Senate May 17 refused to attach the Gooding long and short haul amendment to the army appropriation bill. Senator Gooding then called up his long and short haul bill as an independent measure.(Press, May 18.)

Butter Legislation — Senator Johnson, of Minnesota, May 17 introduced a resolution proposing an inquiry into the cost of producing butter, with a view to increasing tariff duties, the investigation to be made by the Tariff Commission. (Press, May 18.)

Bank Situation in the Northwest — A dispatch from Pierre, S.D., to the press of May 19 says: "The flurry resulting from failure of speculative banks earlier in the year is showing a reaction, and money is going back into the banks, from which it was withdrawn several months ago."

Senator Pepper to Offer World Court Plan — The Philadelphia Ledger to-day says: "A compromise plan for American adherence to a World Court is to be proposed to the Senate committee on foreign relations by Senator Pepper, a member of the committee. Its purpose would be to reconcile conflicting views in the hope of obtaining favorable Senate action on some sort of proposal....."

Exports of Farm Products — In the nine months of the fiscal year ending with March, exports of wheat from the United States are shown in the current report of the Department of Commerce to have decreased 63,522,000 bushels in quantity as compared with the preceding season and $86,787,000 in value. Including flour, the decrease was 53,899,000 bushels in quantity and $81,792,000 in value.(Press, May 19.)

Section 2

Agriculture in the Northwest

The Providence Journal for May 16 says: "Notwithstanding the fact that the one-crop farmers of the Northwest have had serious trouble as the result of the low price of wheat and the closing of banks, there is reason to anticipate their return in due time to prosperous conditions. The president of the Northwest Trust Company of St. Paul says that he is 'a bull' on the agricultural States affected by the overproduction of wheat throughout the world. His analysis of the situation is sensible, although it may not please the calamity-shouting politicians who are seeking the votes of the farmers: 'The big trouble was too much credit. The farmer, working under the burden of loans made on all too high land values, is naturally having serious trouble. This condition worked into the banking situation in that too many institutions carried too much of farm and livestock paper with insecure collateral. Of course, there must be a "thaw-out" and this will require some years. But it is proceeding and to know the facts is to be a confirmed bull on the Northwest.'...The St. Paul banker is confident that a turn for the better is being made; diversified crops are being grown on deflated land, and as the Northwest has great natural resources there is reason to expect the restoration of prosperity in a reasonable course of time. There is no doubt that the recovery will be hastened if the farmers do some serious thinking about the enormous increase of taxes since 1914."

Canadian Wheat Imports

Imports of wheat from Canada last week fell to 240 bushels, attributed by Commerce Department officials to the increased tariff rate placed upon imports recently in the Presidential proclamation invoking the flexible provisions of the Tariff act. Weekly imports before the increase became effective averaged nearly 500,000 bushels.(Press, May 17.)

"Coburn of Kansas"

In a lengthy editorial on the late Foster Dwight Coburn, Secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture from 1894 to 1914, The New York Times of May 17 says:".....The speeders of the plow--now speeding automobiles--laughed at the chap who was trying to force his newfangled notions upon them; who thought he knew more about their business than they did. He did know a good deal more. As State Secretary of Agriculture, he 'boomed' indefatigably alfalfa--'lucerne' that was. The newspaper wits gibed him. He was a crank. He wrote books on alfalfa. He showed the farmers how to grow it. He made them grow it. Now, Kansas has about a million acres in alfalfa worth, say, $25,000,000. That's one of the things that Coburn did for Kansas in his nearly fifty years of devotion. He was the first Kansan to preach the gospel, only too slowly accepted, of diversified farming. 'Stop trying to raise corn in the western part of the State,' he urged the farmers; and yet, such was his State enthusiasm that, as a Topeka correspondent of The Kansas City Times recalls, 'he would contend with an Iowa man that Kansas was a corn State and with a Kentucky Colonel that Kansas was really entitled to the name of the Blue Grass State, except for the fact that Kentucky had appropriated the title before Kansas was discovered. Always his theme and his song was of Kansas.' One

curious change he brought about. Ancients can remember when there was a great deal of talk about Kansas 'drought.' 'Forget it,' said Coburn, in effect; 'plenty of other States are as dry as Kansas. Stop talking about it. Stop making the farmers blue thinking about it.' Thenceforward, 'drought' had no official existence in Kansas...

Cooperative Council

An editorial in The Orange Judd Illinois Farmer for May 15 says: "A valuable idea has been started in Wisconsin which ought to be a good thing for cooperative marketing. A permanent council has been formed consisting of two representatives from each cooperative marketing agency now functioning in the State, with provision for additional members as new organizations are established. The council will be a sort of clearing house for cooperative information, and will aid in the sound development of farmer-controlled cooperative marketing practices. This seems like a splendid idea. The most important thing in connection with cooperative marketing is to keep it under the control of the farmers themselves, although there seems to be plenty of professional bystanders who would be glad to relieve them of the responsibility.".

Diversification

The Price Current-Grain Reporter for May 14, says: "Flour and lumber gave Minneapolis its start and for years this city was considered headquarters for both of these industries. The center of lumber production and primary marketing is now near the Pacific coast while Buffalo is making rapid growth as a milling metropolis. But Minneapolis continues to grow in wealth and importance, why, simply because she ceased to depend entirely on flour and lumber and began to diversify her industries and manufacture other commodities. When the one-crop farmers of the wheat States realize that they must win their prosperity in the same way through diversification, agriculture of the Northwest will prosper."

Electrical Power

An editorial in The Rural New Yorker for May 17 says: "All over the country efforts are being made to improve the electric service on farms. In New York State the College of Agriculture has taken this matter up....At the college on April 29th, an organization was formed with Prof. H. W. Riley as chairman. The first object of the committee will be to give the farmers of the State information on the money value of electricity. The problems of applying it will be explained and all practical questions made clear. The gas and electric companies have an organization known as the Empire State Gas & Electric Association, and they propose to extend their rural lines wherever the demand for service will make that possible. There is a heavy growing demand from the farmers for the electric service. This organization will attempt to bring the farmers and the electric companies closer together, making clear the needs of electric service, and showing the best way for obtaining it. There are millions of horsepower running to waste in many of our streams. This could and should be utilized to provide power and light and heat for our country people. The organization of this committee is a step in the right direction, for without organization nothing of the sort could be made possible."

Farm Exodus

Referring to the movement of farm population to the city, an editorial in Farm and Ranch for May 17 says: "There is really an economic need for reducing our farm population, and the fact that many are moving to the city should be a cause for rejoicing rather than one for mourning. Successful farmers are not moving to the city except in cases where they have accumulated sufficient to warrant retirement. The unsuccessful should be encouraged to make the change, for their opportunities to support and educate their families are probably greater in the city than in the country. By thus reducing the farm population--culling the farmers--those who remain will work under smaller handicaps. There will be a greater proportion of efficient producers and consequently the business of farming will be elevated to a higher plane.....Failures on the farm are no more frequent than failures in the city. Then why condemn farming? The business of farming offers splendid opportunities to energetic and intelligent men and women. It is not a 'get rich quick' business, but a competency can be built up midst surroundings both healthful and pleasant. Farm life under modern conditions is bound to attract a high class of citizenship. Those not equal to the task; who refuse to meet the requirements, will find places in the industries where they will be told just what to do and how to do it at so much per hour."

Federal Advisory Council

The Journal of Commerce for May 17 says: "The Federal Advisory Council, a body which meets four times a year at Washington and whose function is largely that of consultation with the Federal Reserve Board, has seldom taken any very definite position on the larger banking questions. In the announced action of Tuesday last it breaks sharply with precedent, inasmuch as its resolution, as reported, adopts a position of first significance. 'The council urges the Federal Reserve Board...to study the question how far it may be desirable to amend existing rulings and regulations in order to approach the problem of Europe's financial and economic reconstruction in a more helpful spirit,' says the resolution; and with the view thus expressed no reasonable man can differ, but every forward looking man must sympathize. The Federal Reserve system has been aloof and indifferent, taking no part in the solution of the greatest financial problem that has been presented for generations past. A time has not come when it must do much more, and do it far more intelligently than heretofore; and the Federal Advisory Council has done well in breaking its precedent of inaction by recommending something positive. The step taken is the more noteworthy because of the council's former view that everything relating to foreign exchange of foreign trade was 'naturally' or 'rightfully' reserved to the various banking corporations organized under national or State laws. This is now wisely given up. ...The Federal Reserve Board has a very important duty to perform in this matter of European rehabilitation. The Federal Advisory Council has emphasized that duty, but it has not particularly aided in the intelligent discharge of it."

Food Prices

An average decline of 2 per cent in retail food prices in the United States in the month ended April 15 was reported May 17 by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The trend of

wholesale commodity prices also continued downward, the bureau's weighted index number, including 404 commodities, declining to 148 as compared with 150 for the month before. Decreases in retail food prices in 51 of the 52 cities for which figures were reported ranged from 5 per cent at Buffalo, Minneapolis, New Orleans Providence and Scranton to less than 1 per cent at Atlanta, Los Angeles, Portland, Oreg., and Salt Lake City. For the year ended April 15 the average decrease was given as 1 per cent.(Press statement, May 17.)

McNary-Haugen Bill

The Daily Argus-Leader for May 14 says: "Letters have been sent to-day from the Huron chamber of commerce to the Senators and Representatives from South Dakota in Washington strongly urging them to vote for the McNary-Haugen bill now pending in Congress. 'It is felt,' says the chamber, 'that this legislation will be of tremendous benefit to this section of the country. This action has been taken because the Huron chamber of commerce is vitally interested in the progress of agriculture and in assistance as is promised by the McNary-Haugen bill.'"

Milk and Life Insurance

An editorial in Chicago Dairy Produce for May 13 says: "It is surprising, even in this day of surprising accomplishments how the story of agriculture, and especially of dairying, is getting into high places where it is receiving serious consideration. Milk, nature's one perfect food, known since the human race appeared, is just coming into recognition of its necessity and value. ...Big business is taking up this subject and finds it profitable to advocate the free using of milk, and to supply it to its employees. Increased efficiency of employees is so marked that a number are joining in the campaign to spread to the general public the knowledge of milk. Probably the most conspicuous among the big business interests that is spending money among the public is the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York. This company not only serves milk with the regular daily luncheon to its 7,425 office employees, but maintains a milk room where employees, recommended by examining physicians as needing additional nourishment, are given an extra helping of milk twice a day. This company has recently spent thousands of dollars advertising milk in leading periodicals of the country. 'Medicine vs. Milk' is the heading used in their page advertising matter. The public is informed that more than $219,000,000 is spent yearly in this country for patent medicine and that if instead of rushing off for a bottle of Dr. Bunkum's Tonique to brace us up, we would go to nature herself for the greatest of all food tonics--milk--we would be a different lot of men and women. Milk is nature's patent--the only food she ever made solely for food. No less notable is the fact that Chicago through its health commission has placed in each of the city's 500,000 homes a booklet on milk prepared with the aid of the National Dairy Council."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended May 17: Stocker and feeder shipments from 12 important markets during the week ending May 9 were: Cattle and calves 56,816; hogs 9,051; sheep 8,121. In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets beef is 50¢ lower to $1 higher; veal is firm to $2 higher; lamb $3 to $5 lower; mutton $1 lower to $1 higher and pork loins $4 lower to $1 higher.

Eastern Round White potatoes about steady at $1.65 to $1.75, sacked per 100 lbs. Northern sacked Round Whites 10¢ lower in Chicago at $1.20 to $1.35. Florida Spaulding Rose generally 50¢ to $1 lower at $8 to $9 per barrel in city markets; $7.25 to $7.50 f.o.b. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions unsettled at $1.75 to $2 per standard crate in consuming centers; mostly around $1.15 f.o.b. Cabbage markets generally weaker. South Carolina Wakefield closed at $3.75 to $4.50 per bbl. crate in eastern cities; $2.50 f.o.b. Strawberries generally weak. Tennessee Klondikes, best, $2.75 to $3 per 24-quart crate in Cincinnati and Chicago; $2.25 to $2.50 f.o.b.

Wheat market developed firmer tone during week and prices at close were slightly higher than at close last week. World movement continues large. Corn market firmer on light receipts but prices lower than at close of last week.

Quoted May 17: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.16 to $1.33. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.06 to $1.13; Kansas City $1.06 to $1.08 1/2. No.2 red winter Kansas City $1.04; St. Louis $1.12 1/2. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 78 1/4 to 78 1/2¢; Minneapolis 71 3/4 to 72¢; Kansas City 76¢. No.2 white corn Kansas City 75¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 78 1/2 to 79¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 48 to 48 3/4¢; St. Louis 49 1/4 to 49 1/2¢; Minneapolis 44 5/8 to 45 1/8¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 25 points during the week, closing at 29.99¢ per lb. New York May future contracts declined 19 points, closing at 30.79¢.

Butter markets continue to remain unsettled. Tone of market is almost weak and price tendency past few days has been downward. Closing prices, 92 score: New York 38 1/2¢; Chicago 39¢; Philadelphia 39¢; Boston 37¢.

Cheese markets steady following advance in prices at Wisconsin cheese boards during week. Closing prices at Wisconsin primary markets May 16: Daisies 18 3/4¢; Longhorns 18 1/2¢; Square Prints 19¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 17,	May 16,	May 17, 1923.
20 Industrials	89.33	89.78	95.41
20 R.R.stocks	81.85	82.07	81.58

(Wall St. Jour., May 19.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 20, 1924.

Section 1

Senate Overrides Bonus Veto and Bill Becomes Law — Without debate, the Senate yesterday overrode the Presidential veto of the Soldier Bonus bill by a vote of 59 to 26, thereby passing into law the $2,250,000,000 to $4,000,000,000 bill which the House passed over the veto last Saturday by a vote of 313 to 78. (Press, May 20.)

Dairy Bureau Bill — The Senate agricultural committee yesterday reported favorably a House bill to establish a bureau of dairying in the Department of Agriculture. (Press, May 20.)

Butter Legislation — The Senate yesterday adopted the resolution of Senator Johnson, of Minnesota, directing the Tariff Commission to inquire concerning the cost of producing butter in the United States and the competing countries from which it is being imported. (Press, May 20.)

McNary-Haugen Bill Amendment Offered — Representative Black, of New York, announced in the House yesterday that he will offer a light wine and beer amendment to the McNary-Haugen grain export bill as a proposal to "provide a profitable market for surplus barley and wheat products."

A petition addressed to the President and members of Congress, urging the enactment of the McNary-Haugen farm relief measure and signed by 60,000 farmers, bankers and business men of Illinois was presented yesterday to President Coolidge by Sam Thompson, president of the Illinois Agricultural Association. (Press, May 20.)

Rate Legislation — The Gooding bill, restricting the Interstate Commerce Commission in its application of the long and short haul clause of the Interstate Commerce act, was passed by the Senate yesterday, 54 to 23. The bill is the first important one affecting railroads to be passed at this session by the Senate and ends a fight carried on for more than twenty years by the Intermountain rate territories. (Press, May 20.)

Grain Exports — Grain exports from the United States last week totaled 2,500,000 bushels against 1,097,000 bushels for the previous week.

The exports for last week as compared with the week previous were made public by the Commerce Department to-day as follows: Wheat, 1,052,000 bushels against 642,000; barley, 5,000 against 50,000; corn, 283,000 against 352,000; oats, 57,000 against 3,000; rye, 1,103,000 against 50,000; Canadian grains in transit, 1,254,000 against 5,673,000; United States and Canadian wheat flour in transit, 149,000 barrels against 213,000.(Press, May 20.)

Section 2

Advisory Council of Federal Reserve Board

A London dispatch to the press of May 19 says: "America's position in relation to Europe has been brought vividly to the fore by opinions and recommendations expressed by the Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Board concerning the effort which should be made to promote the dollar as the only world standard of value. There was animated discussion here during the week over what is regarded as 'the dollar's challenge to sterling.' It can be said at once, however, that the bankers are not, to use a slang expression, 'going off the deep end' about it. America's advantage in possessing about one-half of the world's gold is recognized and, if employed in the right way, there is little doubt that America would benefit very substantially from a restoration, or stabilization, of European currencies. British bankers, however, can not follow the Advisory Council in its suggestion that the gold standard can be restored in Europe overnight....Whether the view of the Federal Reserve Board's Advisory Council truly reflects American opinion or not, it is felt in this market that we are at last beginning to move with real purpose toward a settlement of Europe's most pressing problems, with America taking a hand....."

Agricultural Finance Corporation

A Minneapolis dispatch to The Wall Street Journal for May 19 says: "First definite statement of how the Agricultural Finance Corporation that was made possible by heavy subscription of New York financial interests to the stock will carry out President Coolidge's desire that relief be given direct to the farmer, emanates from President Jaffray of the corporation, who is also president of the Soo Line....The Northeast Mutual Dairy Loan Association to be organized at Minot shortly will be lending money to wheat farmers who want to diversify and secure cattle. The Agricultural Finance Corporation will back the North Dakota organization. In effect the Fowler plan is the application of the building and loan association idea. It is proposed to organize other associations at strategic points. 'The North Dakota or Minot association will sell its monthly instalments and full paid investment stock to investors who want to save their money,' Mr. Jaffray said. 'The money received will be loaned to the farmer who wants to abandon his old practice of raising a 90-day wheat crop and go into milking cows. The borrower also will subscribe for stock and pay it by easy monthly instalments. He will share in dividends the same as an investing stockholder. The association takes as collateral a lien on the cows he buys, or on whatever cows he has instead of a mortgage on his land or home. The cows will be insured for the first year and will be good security because they will bring in a steady income....I predict that in five years this territory will become one of the most prosperous in the whole Northwest. Dairying and diversified farming will displace exclusive wheat raising as it has done in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The newly organized loan associations will do the work and the greater corporation will stand back of them.'"

Agricultural Relief

In an editorial on the new agricultural relief bill Senator Smith has introduced in Congress, The New York World for May 19 says: "Senator Smith of South Carolina would make it easier for farmers to borrow of Federal Reserve banks on their products as collateral security up to 75 per cent of market values. One objection is that such a plan seems to be quite unnecessary, since the Federal Reserve banks already have for a chief function the discounting of paper drawn against staple farm products. Indeed, the Federal Reserve act discriminates in favor of such paper as against financial loans or borrowings on stock and bond collateral. Another and more patent objection is that the plan does not reach the farmer's trouble but is rather calculated to aggravate it. What he needs is not increased facilities for borrowing money but an increased margin of gain from his labor. He has had to borrow too much already. He has been caught between overindebtedness and a declining margin of profit. More debt can not possibly improve his ability to reduce debt. That ability is to be improved in two ways: Larger markets for the American farmer's surplus production and lower costs of production. And the way to that double end is single and simple. It is to do away with the Fordney-McCumber tariff, which at once enhances the prices which the farmer must pay for what he buys and impairs the ability of others to buy what he has to sell. But simple and obvious as this way out is, not one of the many farm-relief measures pending in Congress embodies it or suggests it."

Capital in Agriculture

The importance and use of capital in developing modern conditions was described by Walter W. Head, president of the American Bankers Association, in an address at Kansas City to-day before the conventions of the Missouri and Kansas Bankers associations. "To-day, in a highly complex state of commercial and industrial organization, man depends not upon his own unaided brawn but upon his ability to work in great units, carefully organized and carefully directed, upon his ability to use power and to use machinery in tremendous quantities," Mr. Head said. "This requires capital--capital to pay for machines, capital to pay for power....Agriculture to-day is an industry, comparable to other industries. Agriculture, like other industries, requires capital. The census of 1920 reported 10,682,000 people engaged in agriculture, compared with 10,248,000 in 1900--an insignificant increase. The agricultural output of the country, measured in units of production, increased 38 per cent. Each person engaged in agriculture in 1920 produced 33 per cent more than did one individual so engaged in 1900. This is indicative of the power of invested capital. As agriculture has been transformed into an industry, operated on the same principles as other industries, labor-saving machinery has been used to a greater and greater extent. The manufacture and purchase of this machinery has required the investment of capital....." (Press statement, May 20.)

Cooperation in Florida

The Florida Times-Union for May 17 says: "After discussing the subject and finding almost general approval of the plans that had been worked up by enthusiasts on the subject, the Producers Cooperative Association was formed in Jacksonville a few days ago, the members being naval stores operators representing over one-third of the industry in the United States. There was some opposi-

tion to organization developed during the meeting, at which one hundred and seventy-three men vitally interested in the making and selling of turpentine and rosin were present, but a great majority was heartily in favor of cooperation and the association will secure a charter and maintain permanent headquarters in Jacksonville."

Forest Farming

The Florida Times-Union for May 15 says: "The man who says 'This matter of the shrinkage of the forests does not concern me,' might well be asked the question what does he pay for rent now compared with what a house similar in all respects would have cost him in rent fifteen or twenty years ago; or, if he owns his own home or other houses, he might be asked what the cost of repairs is to-day compared with the same item at that time. For the basis of all rents is what it would cost to replace the house to-day if it were destroyed. The cost of the material used enters largely into the question, and wood is a large part of the material used in any house. Of course, the high scale of wages paid nowadays to the building trades would figure largely in the calculation, but if wages were no higher than they were a dozen years or so ago, yet no house standing could be replaced at nearly the cost of its original construction if that date were a decade or score of years ago. This is a question into which possible deterioration does not enter as a factor. If we were to pursue the subject of the greater cost of lumber due to its increasing scarcity into all its ramifications it would be found to touch almost or quite every department of domestic or social life. That scarcity is due to our reckless squandering of our forest resources--due to treating our forests as so many mines. But the dawning of a better day for America seems to be at hand. It is most apparent in the growing tendency to engage in forest farming...But the progress of commercial forest farming must be but slow, even if it moves with accelerated pace in the near future. For, 'The United States is using up its timber supply four times as rapidly as that supply is being replaced by growth.' The need for reforestation and a more conservative use of the timber supply will continue for many years as pressing as now--if not more imperative as time passes, for it will be long before the product of man-grown forests overtakes the past and present waste of nature's lavish provision for our needs."

Government Aid

An editorial in The Commercial and Financial Chronicle for May 17 says: "...What we need most is a return to a social order of frugality, tolerance and independence. A selfish class is a servile one. An extravagant social life, since all can not succeed alike, breeds discontent and political subserviency. Asking aid for vocation, class or section fosters dependence, idleness and slavery. Neither in spirit nor practice is Government, as we know it, intended to be a benevolent institution nor a first aid in time of economic or business trouble. Undue credits or emergency gratuities, though seemingly or minor importance at the time, when continuously granted, shackle the people with onerous taxes, and reduce the manhood of the Nation to a condition of suppliancy. After all, there is no salvation for an individual or a people save in work. A Government which merely protects can not aid an

individual, class, section, trade association, or vocational bloc, except at the expense of one or the other of these organisms--or of all the people. For our Government, at least, has not initiative, resources, money or enterprise, within and of itself. Favoring seasons bless the farmers; favoring environment blesses us all; work will bring plenty and peace."

McNary-Haugen Bill

Referring to the McNary-Haugen bill, an editorial in Modern Miller for May 17 says: "The Miller, of London, sees it a 'dumping' act, which would bring a panic in futures and says 'the bill must be displeasing to all countries where agriculture is an important industry.' It continues: 'The burdens of our home growers are heavy enough already, without the further unsettlement of this dumping bill, and the Colonies would not be slow to complain of the unfair competition imposed upon them, and would be up in arms for retaliatory measures. Our imports of American produce, on a free basis, are already galling to the Colonies, who are demanding Imperial preference, and the dumping of American cereals at a price below production cost would precipitate matters. We might also surely look for a further disastrous decline in homegrown wheat.'"

Real Estate Resources and Farm Prosperity

The Washington Post for May 18 says: "Study of business practices through which the real estate resources of America, which compose more than half of the national wealth, may best be developed to meet the growth of American cities and help insure the future of American farm life will be made in seven national conferences of real estate specialists which will convene at Washington June 3-6, as part of the annual convention of the National Association of Real Estate Boards. The conferences will take up: Safeguarding of real estate investments, bringing of new industries to cities, making home ownership possible to every responsible family, establishment of a new base for farm development."

Wheat Crop and Railroads

The Wall Street Journal for May 19 says: "A serious situatio for the railroads is presented by the expected heavy wheat crop, according to a prominent eastern railroad executive. While box cars are already being shipped to the wheat fields in anticipation of this movement, elevators are now practically full of this grain and, unless this holdover is disposed of before the new wheat comes to the elevators, there is likely to be a serious car shortage, with resulting congestion at country elevators...Terminal elevators in this country have a storage capacity of about 260,000,000 bushels of wheat, and it is estimated that at the present time there are between 175,000,000 and 200,000,000 bushels of holdover wheat stored in these elevators. If this is not disposed of before the end of June there will not be sufficient facilities to store the new crop. If this condition comes about it will probably have a depressing effect upon the price of wheat. There has been a disposition to hold wheat for higher prices, but this can not continue much longer. The only relief possible under the circumstances is to dispose of the accumulated grain at present prices or less...."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 19: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.75 for the top and $7.35 to $7.75 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.50 to $11.35; butcher cows and heifers $4.35 to $10.50; feeder steers $5.50 to $10 and light and medium weight veal calves $8. to $11.25.

Eastern Round White potatoes steady at $1.65 to $1.85 sacked per 100 pounds. Northern Sacked Round Whites about steady in Chicago at $1.05 to $1.30. Florida Spaulding Rose $1.50 to $1.00 lower in New York, unsettled elsewhere, generally ranging from $8.50 to $9 per barrel in city markets. New York Baldwin apples sold at $3.50 to $4.25 per barrel. Onion markets dull. Texas Yellow Bermudas generally $1.75 to $2 per standard crate in consuming centers; $1.20 to $1.25 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage generally lower, closing at $3 to $3.75 per barrel crate in eastern cities; $2.50 f.o.b. Tennessee Klondike strawberries $.75 to $1.00 lower in Chicago at $3.25 to $3.50 per 24-quart crate; $2.25 to $3.25 f.o.b.

Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter to-day: New York 38 1/2¢, Boston 39¢, Chicago 37¢, Philadelphia 39 1/2¢.

Average grain prices quoted May 19: No.1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.15 1/2 to $1.32 1/2. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.06 1/2 to $1.13; Kansas City $1.04 to $1.07; St. Louis $1.06 to $1.07. No.2 red winter Kansas City $1.05; St. Louis $1.12 to $1.13. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 79 3/4 to 80¢; Minneapolis 72 1/4 to 72 1/2¢. No.3 yellow Kansas City 75¢, Minneapolis 71 1/2 to 72¢. No.3 white Kansas City 74 to 75¢, St.Louis 79 1/2 to 80¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 1/4 to 49¢, Minneapolis 44 1/4 to 45¢, Kansas City 49¢, St. Louis $19.

Spot cotton up 34 points, closing at 30.33¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 51 points, closing at 31.30¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 19,	May 17,	May 19, 1923.
20 Industrials	89.81	89.33	94.70
20 R.R. stocks	81.88	81.85	81.00

(Wall St. Jour., May 20.)

DAILY DIGEST

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May 21, 1924.

Section 1

McNary-Haugen Bill — The House yesterday formally took up the McNary-Haugen grain corporation bill for farmer relief under a special rule, the night session being held with a view to expediting final action on the measure. Representative Voigt spoke against the bill. (Press, May 21.)

Tax Legislation — The New York Times to-day says: "While all branches of the Government concerned moved yesterday to give effect to the bonus legislation, passed in Congress over the President's veto, the congressional conferees considering the tax reduction bill appeared willing to modify that measure sufficiently to escape a Presidential veto on it. Readjustment of the tax bill to bring it within the estimated surplus of about $400,000,000 for the next fiscal year, which must provide for the $152,000,000 necessary for the bonus, is inevitable, in the opinion of Republican leaders who conferred recently with President Coolidge."

Farm Loan Board Nominations Assailed — The Associated Press to-day says: "The fight against the nominations of members of the Federal Farm Loan Board by the late President Harding was renewed yesterday by Senator Howell, this time on the floor on the Senate after the nominations had been favorably reported by the banking committee. Entering a series of charges involving the conduct of the board and declaring the question had arisen as to whether the 'Senate could afford to put its stamp of approval on the methods' of administration adopted by the board, the Nebraska senator was met with the assertion by Senator Glass, a member of the committee, that the nominations had been approved after a complete hearing."

Freight Rates — The Interstate Commerce Commission yesterday ordered a 10 per cent reduction in the express rates on fruit, berries, vegetables, butter and eggs when shipped in carloads. The order was an amendment to an order on November 10, 1923, which reduced express rates on food articles 10 per cent. (Press, May 21.)

Financial Status in the West — Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of The Philadelphia Ledger, says in to-day's issue: "There is every indication that the financial situation in the Northwest has turned from the bottom and is progressing upward. At the same time there are indications that other sections of the West are in approximately the position occupied by the Northwest six months ago. Iowa has already entered on a period of small bank failures. Kansas, Oklahoma and western Texas are not far behind. The fortunate part of the situation is that, benefiting from experience of the Northwest, trouble in the West and Southwest will be met more promptly and more efficiently and there is no promise that any sustained period of depression is in store for those territories."

Section 2

Cotton Output

The Wall Street Journal for May 20 says: "Whether directly interested in the output of cotton or not, every business man will welcome increasing evidence that the most progressive farmers and men of affairs in the South are awake to the necessity of a change in farming methods. This may well mean the dawning of a new day for the cotton producers. A notable attempt is that inaugurated by the Dallas Morning News and the Dallas Farm News. These newspapers together are offering a prize of $1,000 for the Texas farmer who raises the most cotton on five acres of land. Their attractive slogan is 'More Cotton on Fewer Acres.' About a thousand Texas farmers have already entered the contest. It is worth noting that there are many local contests projected or actually launched. Reports have come from about 50 chambers of commerce in different localities of Texas offering prizes of from $500 to $2,500 for the largest yield per acre for cotton. In each of these cases the farmer's unit is five acres, as the object is not big acreage, but a large yield on a small area. The Texas Bankers' Association, supporting the movement, contributes $1,000 as special prizes. The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas is also cooperating. Clearly, the most effective way to fight the boll weevil is to give the farmer a tangible interest in victory. A small area of cotton can be cultivated far more efficiently than a large one; methods are all-important in getting ahead of the weevil. When farmers fully realize this and learn how to make the cotton plant do its best they will have advanced a long way in their fight not only against the weevil but certain other moral and even political pests. It should be remembered also that producing a larger cotton crop on a smaller area releases land for cultivation of food and feed products. The present condition of the all-wheat farmers elsewhere shows how vitally necessary this is. It is a matter of record that in two local contests in Texas last year one farmer produced seven bales and another eight on five acres of land. This compares favorably with less than two bales of indifferent cotton which has been the usual product of an apathy bordering on despair. It is far from the possible maximum."

Diversification

An editorial in Sioux City Live Stock Record for May 17 says: "So much has been said the past few years of the advantage of diversified farming that it might appear that only farmers suffered from the one-crop idea. This is incorrect, says an exchange. A one-crop city also suffers and frequently dies because it was dependent largely on one industry. One has only to recall the depression that very often paralyzes coal towns, steel towns, oil towns, automobile towns, etc. Any city whose activities are centered in or dependent on a single industry is just as subject to the fluctuating periods of activity and depression as the industry itself. The present plight of Los Angeles with its tourist industry threatened by the foot-and-mouth epidemic furnishes a concrete case. On the other hand, cities of widely varied interests are not so very much affected by the condition of any particular industry. This is simply a matter of common knowledge and observation and demonstrates the wisdom of diversified

commercial and industrial activities in the centers of population. A city devoted to a single industry is a dangerous proposition from an investment point of view. Farmers can take a leaf from the book of experience of the cities. At the first indication of depression in a one-crop town there is a general rush to other lines of business. That would also seem to be the wise course to follow in a one-crop farming community."

Electricity on the Farm

At what rate a South Dakota farmer can afford to use electric service from a central station, and, on the other hand, whether the power company can afford to furnish this service to the farmer, are two questions which are being studied by South Dakota State College engineers. A comparison of the cost of electric power on the farm with that of hand, horse, gas, wind and steam power will also enter into this test. In the past, college authorities state, the power companies have not been able to keep up a line and furnish electricity to farms at a profit, because the farmers did not use enough power to make it pay. As a result the companies have not been willing to give farmers the service. If electricity for power as well as lighting can be used on the farm in sufficient quantities, it can be furnished by a central station at an extremely low rate, it is thought, so as to make the farmer an acceptable customer.(Press, May 20.)

Fertilizers and Water Power

The Journal of Commerce for May 20 says: "That within a half century water power might be in such demand for other purposes that it would be an economic crime to use it for the production of fertilizer is the opinion expressed by a well informed engineer the other day when called upon to give his views upon the Muscle Shoals question. Such is indeed the fact and it is in part for that reason that it would be exceedingly unwise for Congress to force this power into fertilizer production for many years to come, if not permanently. It would be a long step in the direction of better thinking on this question if the whole Muscle Shoals matter could be permanently divorced from fertilizer production as far as Congress is concerned. If fertilizer can be produced at that site economically in competition with other goods the power produced will in the natural course of events be thus employed. If it can not, then it would be wholly unjustifiable to force the production of fertilizer by subsidizing that commodity."

Milk and Life Insurance

An editorial in The Pacific Dairy Review for May 8 says: "During the past few years there has been promulgated a lot of valuable educational work seeking to encourage a larger consumption of dairy products, particularly milk, but for effectiveness there has never been anything equal to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's view of the value of milk. Life insurance measures life strictly in terms of dollars and cents. It is the kind of a lesson that takes hold. Drink lots of milk; your life insurance company wants you to live long for its sake even if it makes no difference to you when you shuffle off."

Parcel Post Rates Referring to the bill to increase the parcel post rates, recently introduced in Congress by Representative Paige, an editorial in Western Breeders Journal for May 8 says: "....Now anybody that knows anything knows that the farm is more vitally affected by the parcel post than any other branch of industry. The passage of the Paige bill simply means a levy of $110,000,000 on the farmer; that amount will be added to the cost of his purchases. This leaves out of account entirely shipments made by the farmer by parcel post, the cost of which he is unable to pass on to anyone else, in many cases.....The Postmaster General is himself in favor of a revision of both salaries and rates on a scientific basis, but is strongly opposed to this ill-advised proposal."

Russian Relations Sharp differences of opinion developed at the May 19 session of the convention of the National Association of Manufacturers in New York over industrial conditions in Russia and the desirability of attempting to foster American trade there. Isaac J. Sherman, president of Arcos-America, Inc., said that in a few years Russia would be the greatest market in the world and that there had been a tremendous economic revival under the Soviets. Irving T. Bush declared that any move looking toward the re-establishment of trade relations with Russia must be predicated upon a rehabilitation of Russian credit, which, he said, the Soviets had destroyed. He asserted that communism had proved a failure, but said he believed that the Soviet Government would reshape its methods. A gloomier view of the situation was taken by Dr. E. Dana Durand, chief of the Eastern European Division of the Department of Commerce, who said that Russia's present and future trade importance was greatly overestimated. (Press, May 20.)

Sugar Beet Crop in Britain Country Life (London) for May 10 says: "It is, perhaps, hoping against hope, but the nursing of infant industries is of so much consequence to the country, at a time when trade is slack and the number of unemployed a national burden, that we can not help venturing to advance a plea to the Minister of Agriculture that he will not allow the cultivation of sugar beet to fail for want of support. In other countries the industry met with difficulties very similar to those experienced by us to-day, but the various governments helped the lame dog over the stile, with results of which they have reason to be proud. The reduction of the tax on sugar is welcomed as a much needed aid to the housekeeper, but it is in the nature of a blow to the growing of sugar beet. It automatically reduces the preference at present enjoyed by the home-grown article by 50 per cent, and the struggle to establish a large home supply is greatly intensified. Mr. Wood, the Secretary of the British Beet-Sugar Society, says that the two factories at Kelham in Nottinghamshire and Cantley in Norfolk produce between them 15,000 of the 2,000,000 tons of sugar annually consumed in the country. If this quantity were to be increased to a fourth of the supply, it would mean the cultivation of 400,000 acres of beet and the employment of 40,000 additional men, who would receive for a period of thirty weeks 1,500,000 pounds in wages. For the country's sake this is surely a result worth struggling for!"

Wheat Marketing The Journal of Commerce for May 17 says: "Early in the current year the Senate, at the behest of one of its members from the Middle West, adopted a resolution which read in part as follows: 'Whereas,...there is reason to believe that the (wheat) market (in 1923) was, except during brief intervals, depressed by short selling by professional traders or speculators, and that the price has been depressed and held materially below a level warranted by legitimate supply and demand conditions,....Therefore, be it resolved, That the Secretary of Agriculture be directed to take steps at once to determine, through the Grain Futures Administration, the position on the market taken by well known professional speculators and members of the large "futures" commission houses of the Board of Trade, and promptly publish the findings without opinions by the investigators as to the effects which the trading by said professionals may have had.' A few days ago the result of this investigation was in due course made available to the public. A careful study of this document can hardly fail to give the reader the impression that the facts therein contained are, from the standpoint of the Midwest malcontents, most unaccommodating. At all events, they refuse to give these individuals a particle of ground to stand on....What will the Midwestern solons have to say to these facts? If they are completely honest intellectually and otherwise they will admit their error and attribute the ills of the farmers to causes other than the manipulations of wicked speculators."

Wheat Prices An editorial in The Florida Grower for May 17 says: "Some of the brains and near-brains of the country are trying to figure out a way to get the farmer better prices for his wheat. They say 'farmer,' but all the while they mean some big companies who grow wheat by the thousands of acres. Mostly they went into this line while the wartime demand and high prices were on. Now some of them have let go while others are in the position of the man who had a bear by the tail. We favor higher prices, of course, (for the grower of wheat) but why discriminate. Give the farmer his just dues for all his crops. Absolute wheat and cotton protection by a tariff would result in overproduction just as sure as pigs is pigs, but there may be a middle course--although we confess it not discernible at present. Protection for any one or even two crops would not be a fair move any way we look at it."

Wool in Oregon A Portland,Ore., dispatch to the press of May 20 states that demand for wool broadened last week and, with Oregon and Washington growers showing a disposition to sell, the market has become more active on the 38-cent basis. Prices are four to five cents lower than a year ago. Most activity is in favor clips, some choice Central Oregon fleeces going at 39 1/2 cents. Sales are reported of central Oregon old clips pooled with new clip at current quotations. One hundred thousand pounds of central Washington wool was sold at Ellensburg at 36 cents for Boston account. The Oregon Woolgrowers' Association pool is to be auctioned June 5.

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 20: Average grain prices quoted May 20: No.1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.15 to $1.32. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.07 to $1.12 1/4; Kansas City $1.03 to $1.09; St. Louis $1.07 to $1.08. No.2 red winter Kansas City $1.06, St. Louis $1.12 to $1.13. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 81¢, Kansas City 76¢, Minneapolis 73¢. No.3 yellow corn St. Louis 81¢, Minneapolis 71 to 72¢. No.2 white corn Kansas City 78¢. No.3 white corn St.Louis 80 to 81¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 48 3/4¢, Kansas City 49¢, St. Louis 50¢, Minneapolis 44 3/4 to 45 1/4¢.

Chicago hog prices closed at $7.75, bulk of sales $7.30 to $7.70; medium and good beef steers $10.15 to $11.25; butcher cows and heifers $4.35 to $10.50; feeder steers $5.50 to $10.25; light and medium weight veal calves $8.50 to $11.75; fat lambs $13.50 to $15.75; yearlings $10.75 to $13.75; fat ewes $5 to $8.50.

Eastern Round White potatoes $1.65 to $1.85 sacked per 100 pounds in eastern cities. Northern sacked Round Whites $1.10 to $1.30 in Chicago. Florida Spaulding Rose generally $8 to $9 per double head barrel in city markets; $7.25 f.o.b. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions sold at $1.75 to $2 per standard crate in consuming centers, $1 to $1.15 f.o.b. South Carolina Wakefield cabbage ranged $1.25 to $1.75 per 1 1/2 bushel hamper in eastern cities; 75¢ f.o.b. Tennessee Klondike strawberries $3.25 to $3.75 per 24-quart crate in Chicago; $2.50 to $3.25 f.o.b. North Carolina Klondikes 18 to 20¢ quart basis in New York; $3.75 to $4.25 per 32-quart crate at shipping points, wagonloads cash to growers.

Spot cotton up 1 point, closing at 30.34¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 15 points closing at 31.45¢.(Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 20,	May 19,	May 19, 1923.
20 Industrials	88.33	89.81	94.70
20 R.R. stocks	81.37	81.88	81.00

(Wall St. Jour., May 21.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 22, 1924.

Section 1

The Tax Bill — Complete agreement was reached by the Senate and House conferees on the tax revision bill yesterday. The Democratic surtax and normal tax rates and personal exemptions were retained. The Jones graduated corporation tax was eliminated, and the plan for publicity of tax details was confined to proceedings before the new Board of Tax Appeals and congressional committees. With the Jones tax proposal abandoned and the publicity amendments modified, Republican leaders, including Senator Smoot and Representatives Green and Longworth, expressed confidence that the President would sign the bill, even though it involved an apparent deficit of $100,000,000. This deficit and the $152,500,000 required for the first year's operation of the bonus, could be absorbed by present and future income of the Government, it was said. (Press, May 22.)

Land Grant Inquiry Order — Congressional investigation of land grants to the Northern Pacific Railway Company was authorized in a House resolution adopted yesterday by the Senate. The inquiry was recommended by Secretaries Work and Wallace, who asked also that there be a provision to hold up final adjustments of the grants until after the investigation had been concluded. Under the resolution as it was adopted by the House, adjustment would be withheld until March 4, 1927, but after hearing officials of the railroad company the Senate fixed the date at March 4, 1925. (Press, May 22.)

Army Trucks for Road Work — The House yesterday passed a bill authorizing the transfer of $12,000,000 worth of army trucks and tractors to the Department of Agriculture for work on public highways. (Press, May 22.)

McNary-Haugen Bill Halted — Possibility of a final vote in the House this week on the McNary-Haugen farm relief bill practically vanished yesterday when the House, unable to obtain a quorum for several hours for a night session Tuesday night, abandoned such a procedure last night. The change in schedule will prevent carrying out an agreement which would have left the way clear tomorrow for taking up reading of the bill, with amendments in order. (Press, May 22.)

Muscle Shoals — The Senate agriculture committee, by a vote of 10 to 6, rejected the Henry Ford bid for the development of the Muscle Shoals project and decided to close all hearings on Monday and consider the pending bids in executive session on Tuesday. (Press, May 22.)

World Court Plans — The Senate foreign relations committee devoted two hours yesterday to a general discussion of world court proposals, but adjourned until to-day without having reached a decision on any important point. (Press, May 22.)

Section 2

Agricultural Credit Corporation

Glenn Griswold, Chicago correspondent of The Philadelphia Ledger, says in the issue for May 21: "The $10,000,000 Agricultural Credit Corporation formed by bankers, manufacturers and other business interests to help restore the Northwest, makes an informal report of its activities and the report is entirely encouraging. The work has reached a point which assures that no important community in that territory will be without banking facilities, nor without one substantial bank that is amply supported by liquid credit and in a position to restore community confidence. One of the last of the large territories that had been deprived of banking facilities and thoroughly depressed was Lewiston, Mont. Arrangements have been made to open the Empire Trust Bank there next week. It will be sufficiently fortified to withstand any demand made on it by the community. In another important community the last large banking institution was about to topple, not because it was insolvent, but because its liquid assets have been depleted. The credit corporation has put more than a quarter of a million dollars into this institution and it will be sustained. The corporation has accomplished fiscal wonders considering the small amount of money it has expended. But $2,000,000 has been actually paid out so far, yet 150 banks in the four States of the Northwest and in Iowa have been fortified."

Dawes Report

The current issue of Barron's Financial Weekly says: "It is revealing no secrets to say that the Dawes report owes what may fairly be called a chief excellence,--its intelligent presentation--to the distinguished banker from whom the committee takes its name. It will be remembered that it consists of a containing letter signed by Charles G. Dawes, as chairman of the committee, a summary of the results reached and a series of expert reports on the different phases of German conditions which it was necessary to set forth with the exactness and understanding only within the reach of experts. The method of the report was really that which would be adopted by a first-class newspaper writer. There is reason for saying that the part which most concerns the layman, the summary of results and conclusions, forming the second part of the report after the containing letter, would have been omitted if it had not been for Charles G. Dawes. It is a quality of his character that, working with men in some lines more profoundly versed than himself, he still has the supreme instinct for getting something done. Hence the summary. He saw that such a statement of conclusions, with a problem presented in each paragraph and its economic solution in the last sentence or so, would be the way to inform public opinion and set the whole world on the side of the report. It was clear to him that the somewhat technical annexes would not all be read by the busy citizen anywhere, much less analyzed to the sum of their meaning. Of course, all the findings of the committee are in these reports, but this makes the summary only the more necessary. Even of that document every word was weighed, while the containing letter was doubtless read over for criticism by the members of the committee individually. Nothing could be more gratifying than the result, and it would not be too much to say that the

combined intelligence of a body of men addressed earnestly to a single end has produced nothing better or more rational, nothing more valuable as a standard for future experience, since the honored fathers of this Republic evolved the Constitution of the United States."

Foreign Trade

The Journal of Commerce for May 21 says: "The committee on foreign trade of the National Association of Manufacturers recommends a resolution urging that American manufacturers 'give their support primarily to such loans as stipulate the expenditure of some portion of the loan in the United States.' On its face, the demand appears to be reasonable; it is conservatively phrased, and it follows a practice usual enough in pre-war days when British and German investment syndicates, in particular, figured conspicuously in financing overseas enterprises. The disposition to limit or confine purchases to countries from which credits were being obtained received a further stimulus during the war period from the very necessities of the case. Consequently many Americans probably take it for granted that if this country determines upon a policy of investment expansion to meet the needs of foreign governments the advances will be made contingent upon some utilization of the proceeds designed to benefit American industries by direct purchases. ...Europe needs to be encouraged in her attempts to economize, not prodded into spending. The gain which will accrue to this country lies in the future, when European industry once more rests on a solid basis after fiscal reforms have been carried through and the masses of the people are no longer forced to live precariously off fluctuating and uncertain earnings. Then a steady market for American exports at prices competitively determined will be afforded and the benefits resulting from American participation in foreign loans will become diffused. If we try to anticipate these results by creating an artificial market for our wares, forcing the foreigner to buy when he needs to conserve and selling him at prices artificially enhanced by the very terms of the agreement, we shall regret it. And the rehabilitation of Europe, for whose sake we are asked to participate in the task of financing Europe, will either be expensively done or not done at all."

Living Costs

Living costs decreased 9-10 of 1% from March 15 to April 15, 1924, according to the National Industrial Conference Board. Fuel prices decreased 3% and food 2%. Since the July, 1920, peak living costs have decreased 20.9%. Purchasing value of the dollar is 61.8 cents as contrasted with $1 in July, 1914.

Long and Short Haul Bill

An editorial in The New York Times of May 21 says: "The Senate has just passed, 54 to 23, the Gooding bill instructing the Interstate Commerce Commission how to interpret and apply the long and short haul clause of the Interstate Commerce act. That was enacted in 1887, and the disputes over it are hotter now after thirty-seven years than when it was thought that the matter was settled by referring it to the commission. The commission has learned a great deal in that generation of experience. It is better qualified to act wisely than Congress. At present the question is

whether the midcontinent or intermountain regions are entitled to railway rates reduced to meet water competition. The difficulty was created largely by the construction of the Panama Canal. Within the last four years westbound traffic by it has increased seven-fold, and eastbound fifteen fold. The railways ask to reduce their rates in order to regain a share of the 6,000,000 tons. It is long-distance freight, capable of being hauled cheaply. Senator Gooding represents those who can not endure seeing freight carried past their doors at a lower rate than they are compelled to pay for shorter hauls. In essence, their grievance is that they are not situated on tidewater. In that case they would share any rate reduction allowed by the commission. But they turn to political means to forbid the commission to authorize exceptions to the law save in the cases of import and export rates, circuitous routes and block express rates. Thus the railways are to be penalized for competing with the Panama Canal, although the canal was constructed for the purpose of competing with the railways. The railways are not responsible for the canal's creating a discrimination in favor of the coast cities. To deprive them of their tidewater advantages would not benefit the intermountain region. As the competition stands the water rates are unduly low, and the inequality between the two sections could be remedied by their increase."

Rubber

Chicago Journal of Commerce for May 20 says: "Secretary Wallace has announced the discovery of vast tracts of good rubber growing land in Mindanao, the second largest of the Philippine Islands...For a year the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce have been seeking a source of rubber supply that would make us independent of British colonial producers. It has been found, and is news of first-class political and economic importance, bearing on our retention of the islands and on a new industry under American Government. Our rubber imports are very large, our rubber manufactures in 1921 being valued at $704,000,000. There were 496 rubber goods plants that year in the United States, which used materials worth $377,000,000 and employed 103,000 wage earners. The development of rubber plantations in Mindanao by American capital is likely to be large and rapid, as rubber has increased enormously in use since the process of vulcanization was discovered in 1840. With the coming of the automobile and the use of rubber tires the demand for crude rubber increased enormously and is certain to grow larger and larger. Rubber has also become important in war, and governments never neglect war necessities. The wild race for oil concessions the world over has, so far as governments are concerned, its utility in war as the prime motive for capturing great oil resources."

Russian Peasant Farmers

Clinton W. Gilbert, staff correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, who has recently returned from Russia, in the May 21 issue says: "Soviet Russia, under the new economic policy, is building two classes, whose existence is inconsistent with the extreme Communist doctrine. One is the peasant proprietor of agricultural lands and the other is the retail tradesman. All the Russian peasants now virtually own their land. Technically there are faults

in their titles. They can not sell their holdings, but they can leave them to heirs. And 86 per cent of the retail trade of Russia is once more in private hands. But the Soviet Government can always control the small tradesman--the retail dealer. He need never be numerous enough or powerful enough to offer effective resistance to the Communists. He will never constitute what we call in America 'a big interest.' The one thing the Soviet leaders have guarded themselves against is the development of 'big interests.' The natural resources are in Government hands. Manufacturing is conducted by State trusts. And the wholesale trade is almost wholly a Government monopoly. No very big interest can develop out of retail trading or out of peasant farming conducted with small acreages."

Truth-in-Fabrics Bill

An editorial in The Indiana Farmer's Guide for May 17 says: "The sheep raisers of this country have waited long and patiently for some definite action by Congress on the truth-in-fabrics bill. It has been delayed and sidetracked so many times that it has become almost a forlorn hope. It seems now that new interest has been injected into the question by certain amendments being proposed by Senator Fess to the Lodge-Rogers truthful merchandising bill. He would amend the bill to provide that all woolen fabrics which are not made exclusively of new wool must be labeled to show what they do contain. New wool would mean wool never before used in fabric. If the fabric contained only new wool it would not be labeled, but if it contained shoddy, cotton or other materials it would be so labeled. It is thought that this bill so amended may have a chance at this session as it removes some of the objections that have been lodged against the other truth-in-fabrics proposals."

Wheat Situation

St. Louis Daily Live Stock Reporter for May 14 says: "When the present wheat crop began to move European statisticians analyzed prospective supplies and demand in such a manner to the grain trade that the import requirements of importing countries would run materially below the previous year. As a result of this generally accepted conclusion wheat prices became adjusted to a level that represented a firm conviction that the year would prove a buyers' market because of increased supply pressure upon a decreased purchasing demand due to Europe's chaotic situation. Forty weeks of the year have now passed and instead of a decreased world wheat demand the shipments from exporting countries have been 577,000,000 bu., against 512,000,000 bu. the year before. That this represents increased actual consuming capacity, traders allege, is evidenced by failure to accumulate any great volume of European stocks in any position. An increase of 20,000,000 bu. in stocks afloat represents the only apparent material enlargement of immediately available stocks, and this does not constitute any burdensome pressure upon European markets. A most significant item in the wheat situation is Broomhall's increase of 52,000,000 bushels in the world's wheat requirements this year, his revised figures showing a total of 757,000,000 bushels, and this further emphasizes the fact that consumption of wheat out of this crop has been upon a scale very much larger than originally expected. In order to

take care of requirements between now and August 1, world's shipments according to the trade must exceed 15,000,000 bushels weekly. In fact the anxiety to get wheat for early shipment, which is emphasized by shipments of something like 40,000,000 bu. of wheat from Canadian lake ports since the opening of navigation, furnishes substantial basis for a growing belief that world's supplies are not as burdensome as a depressed price range might indicate. The demand for wheat already in existence and the known fact of acreage decrease suggests the possibility of some revision of general trade opinion as to the immediate future balance between supplies and needs. The consumptive demand is always a more or less stable factor to count upon. This should not be materially less the coming crop year than it has been running the past season. On the other hand the definite bullish factor is the reduced acreage, not only in the United States but in parts of Canada as well. In view of this bullish factor, more than ordinary interest will hinge upon crop prospects and conditions throughout the growing season."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 21: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.65 for the top and $7.20 to $7.60 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.25 to $11.25; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $10.50; feeder steers $5.50 to $10.25; light and medium weight veal calves $8.75 to $11.75; fat lambs $13.25 to $15.50 and yearlings $10.50 to $13.50.

Eastern Round White potatoes steady at $1.65 to $1.85 sacked per 100 pounds. Northern Sacked Round Whites steady in Chicago at $1.10 to $1.30. Florida Spaulding Rose generally weaker at $7.75 to $8.25 per double head barrel in leading markets; mostly $7 f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples $4.50 to $5 per barrel in New York. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions irregular at $1.50 to $2 per standard crate in consuming centers; 90¢ to $1.15 f.o.b. Cabbage markets weak. Tennessee Klondike strawberries 75¢ lower in Chicago at $3.25 to $3.50 per 24-quart crate; $2.35 to $2.75 f.o.b.

Average grain prices quoted May 21,1924: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.16 to $1.32 7/8. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.08 1/2, Kansas City $1.05 to $1.07, St. Louis $1.08. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.06. No.3 yellow corn Chicago 79 1/2, St. Louis 82 1/2¢, Kansas City 76 1/2 to 77¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 79 to 80¢, Kansas City 77¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 48 1/2¢, Kansas City 49 1/2¢, St. Louis 49 1/2 to 50¢.

Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter to-day: New York 39 1/2¢; Chicago 37 1/2¢, Philadelphia 40 1/2¢, Boston 39 1/2¢.

Spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets up 40 points, closing at 30.74¢ per lb. New York May future contracts up 68 points, closing at 32.13¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 21,	May 20,	May 21, 1923.
20 Industrials	89.35	88.33	92.77
20 R.R. stocks	82.38	81.37	80.13

(Wall St. Jour., May 22.)

DAILY DIGEST

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May 23, 1924.

Section 1

The President on Outdoor Life

President Coolidge, in his address opening the three-day National Conference on Outdoor Life at Washington May 22, said in part: "I am hopeful that the conference can co-ordinate our national resources and opportunities in a way better to stimulate every possible interest in out of door healthful recreation. It is by no means intended that there should be any suggestion of Federal domination of such activities. Necessarily they are largely local and individual, and to be helpful they must always be spontaneous. But this conference can be of great aid by making something of an inventory of our national resources and opportunities and determining how these may best be put to this most desirable use, and, further, by exchanging ideas, create new interests and open to view new fields.....Another activity which is being encouraged is that of gardening. This is necessarily somewhat limited, but the opportunity for engaging in it has never been anywhere near exhausted. It makes its appeal alike to youth and age. It is extremely practical on the one hand, and lends itself to the artistic on the other."

Secretary Mellon Against Tax Bill

Secretary Mellon yesterday denounced the tax bill as agreed to by the congressional conference committee as "unsatisfactory, uneconomic and impracticable," according to the press of to-day.

Senator Pepper Introduces World Court Plan

A world court plan, for which the assertion is made that it aims to harmonize the views of President Coolidge and Secretary Hughes and the Republican Senate leaders, was offered in the Senate yesterday by Senator Pepper. Under instructions of the committee on foreign relations, Senator Pepper brought forth an elaborate set of proposals embodying changes in the League of Nations statute, establishing the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague. Primarily, the Pepper plan, while it calls upon the Senate to approve and advise the adherence of the United States to the league's Court of Justics, is intended so to change the organic act establishing the court that instead of the council and the assembly of the league electing the court's judges, that function is transferred to two new, but similar, bodies to be known as "the Council of Signatories" and "the Assembly of Signatories." (Press, May 23.)

Senate Confirms Farm Board Members

The Senate in executive session last night confirmed the nominations of L. J. Pettijohn, of Kansas; Elmer S. Landes, of Ohio; M. L. Corey, of Nebraska, and E. E. Jones, of Pennsylvania, to be members of the Federal Farm Loan Board. (Press, May 23.)

Section 2

Agricultural Situation as Viewed by The President

President Coolidge gives his views on the agricultural situation in an interview conducted by David Lawrence and published in The Country Gentleman for May 24. In this the President is quoted as saying: "The farmer has in many instances discovered that the mortgage on his farm did not represent the true value of that farm. His own expenses have increased. The cost of production on the farm has not been materially reduced. And the prices of farm products declined. It has been a truly distressing situation. Some people thought that relief could be accomplished by legislation. Many a measure has been proposed with the idea that it would be of a temporary character and that a permanent condition would sooner or later make unnecessary any artificial remedies. But, as we develop the situation from day to day, it becomes apparent that the problems of agriculture are so interrelated that they can not be cured by legislation alone. The farmer does not get his proper share of the prices paid by the consumer for foodstuffs. I believe that will be universally admitted."..."To what extent do you think that unscientific methods of distribution and marketing are a factor?"..."One of our big problems is to effect economies in distribution which would make it possible for the farmer to get better prices for his products without increasing prices to the consumer and perhaps in some instances lowering them. ....Agriculture must be organized. But the work of organization is largely the responsibility of private initiative and the farmer himself....There ought to be some way by which the farmer's effort can be guided so that he will not tend toward overproduction. His interests must be diversified and so far as possible he should raise his own food and feed supplies. The Government, in cooperation with the agricultural colleges, is employing 2,000 agricultural agents in as many counties to aid the farmers in improving and diversifying their production. But there must also be cooperative effort and organization--and by organization I mean efficient organization.....The standards of the individual farmer have also been raised," said the President. "But nobody should criticize that. We want our farmers to have all the opportunity, all the comforts of life, and to live on as high a standard as is possible. The basic fact is that we want agriculture to get its proper share of the price paid by the consumer for farm products. That is the problem in a nutshell. What the farmer needs is a market at a fair price for his product....There are some people who argue that there is not just now much of an exportable surplus in wheat and that the discussion about the effect of the export market on our market price is largely mythical. I do not wish to argue the merits of that question, but I can say that the export market is a very uncertain factor. For instance, if Russia comes back and gets the transportation facilities she can feed a large part of the Continent. I understand we are selling a larger quantity of pork fats to Germany that we did before the war. We have exported more in the past few years to Europe of our agricultural products than in pre-war days. I am not speaking, of course, of our exports during the war period, when we sold at prices which foreign governments were glad enough to pay because the Government of the United States was lending them the money to buy. They purchased regardless of

price. And most of the money which was borrowed by them for the purchase of our goods has not yet been repaid. Our thinking must be in terms not of war conditions but of peacetime....."

British Empire Cotton

The campaign in England to make the British Empire independent of American-grown cotton is assuming alarming proportions, according to Edward E. Bartlett, jr., president of the New York Cotton Exchange, who returned from England May 21. Cotton growing in the British colonies was being stimulated with every resource at England's command, Mr. Bartlett said. In South Africa and in Australia cotton plantations were superseding gold mines as the big money-making opportunity and thousands of acres were being acquired to be put under cultivation. So extensive had the movement become that the Liverpool Cotton Exchange already was talking of new contracts to cover other than American growths. "Our short crops and high prices due in large part to the ravages of the boll weevil," Mr. Bartlett said, "have given to England the needed inspiration to spur her colonies to go in for the cultivation of cotton on a big scale, and the farmers have needed little urging." (N.Y.Times, May 22.)

"Emigrant" and "Immigrant"

An Associated Press dispatch from Rome May 22 says: "The International Emigration Conference May 21 finally agreed on a compromise definition of an emigrant, after a four-day debate on the subject, during which the emigration and immigration countries lined up almost solidly in favor of opposing views. The definition finally accepted embodies that one submitted jointly by the French and Italian delegations, but it also includes an amendment presented by an Argentine delegate. The Franco-Italian definition characterized an emigrant as a person who left his country to obtain work in another, or to accompany or rejoin a relative who had already emigrated for the stated purpose. Returning emigrants were also covered. An immigrant was defined as an emigrant who had taken up his first employment in the country of his adoption, in which he was to be treated on the same footing with other workers, and was to be subject to the laws and regulations governing resident foreigners. The amendment included in the final definition stipulated that the immigrant should be subject to all laws affecting aliens in his adopted country from the moment of his arrival, and that the term immigrant should be applied only to persons coming with the intention, either expressed or implied, of remaining permanently."

French Wheat Situation

A Paris dispatch to the press of May 22 says: "Fear that French peasants may forsake the growing of wheat for more profitable crops dominated a meeting of the Academy of Agriculture May 21. Joseph Hitier, member of the academy, pointed out that there were 140,000,000 quintals of wheat now available on the market furnished by the United States, Canada, Australia, India and Argentina. Of this quantity, he estimated, only 65,000,000 quintals would be absorbed by the world's consumption, leaving more than half left over at the time of the next harvest. M. Hitier stressed the fact that if no measures were taken to prevent the importation of wheat into Farnce prices at the next harvest time would drop sharply and would imperil the French farmers and cause them to cease planting.

He urged the academy to make strong representations on this subject to the new Government."

Howard on Agricultural Credit in the Northwest

The Milwaukee Journal for May 20 says: "The $10,000,000 Agricultural Credit Corporation, originally tentatively formed in Chicago at the suggestion of President Coolidge for the relief of the agricultural Northwest, already has gone to the relief of more than 150 banks in North And South Dakota, Montana, Iowa and Minnesota, it was disclosed Tuesday by James R. Howard, a vice president of the organization and president of the National Transportation Institute. The corporation has been in actual operation scarcely more than a month. In addition to the relief of banks, the credit corporation has established a $1,000,000 fund for the direct aid of farmers in the purchase of dairy cows, sheep or brood sows in order to promote diversified farming in the Northwest Mr. Howard announced. It is planned to expand this mixed farming movement as rapidly as experience justifies to cover the whole territory of the Northwestern States. 'This great northwest country is coming back, make no mistake about that,' said Mr. Howard. 'Its welfare is essential to the United States. It is a wonderful country, an agricultural empire. It can not help returning to prosperity.....'"

Muscle Shoals

An editorial in Southern Agriculturist for May 15 says: "....The farmers realize, whether anybody else does or not, that the Ford offer is the only offer yet presented to Congress that promises any relief to agriculture or any assurance to the public that this great natural resource will be developed in the interest of the people. There is no debating now as to whether nitrogen can be made at Muscle Shoals or not. Everybody has agreed that it can be done. In order to get some first-hand information, Gray Silver, of the American Farm Bureau Federation, took a trip to Germany, and while there visited the nitrogen fixation plant at Battische, the biggest in the world--employing 15,000 men. Before the war this plant was smaller than Muscle Shoals. It now has five times the capacity of Muscle Shoals. While at the plant Mr. Silver asked the manager whether or not nitrates are being imported into Germany. The manager said, 'No, because we sell 20 per cent cheaper.' He asked what this company would do if imported nitrates were reduced in price and still the answer was 'we sell 20 per cent cheaper.' This plant does not have the advantage of cheap power. The steam to drive the engines that run its machines is developed with lignite, a very poor grade of fuel. Germany, on the whole, so Mr. Silver says, is not only supplying all of its nitrogen needs but is going into the markets of the world. He saw sacks already labeled for export, some for our own Pacific coast and some for China. There is practically half as much available power at Muscle Shoals as there is within the entire borders of the German Empire. That is how important this Muscle Shoals proposition is, and if we can have a large portion of that power applied to the production of nitrates we shall set an example of great national importance."

Parcel Post Rates Referring to the proposed increase in parcel post rates, an editorial in Southern Ruralist says:"....Inasmuch as the system is paying its way, any increase in rates for any purpose is wholly without justification. Our immediate interest in the matter is to preserve an important piece of agricultural marketing machinery that is constantly growing in usefulness and popularity. The farmers need help and not hindrance."

Postal Service Salary Bill Enactment of the postal salary bill which probably will be called up in the House next week would increase Government expenditures $80,425,551 a year, Postmaster General New said May 21 in a letter to Representative Ramseyer, a member of the House postoffice committee. The Postmaster General referred to a proposal previously submitted which would have cost $43,000,000 to be met by certain postage rate increases and fees for special service. Such a revision, he said, would correct inequalities and provide as much revenue as the department felt could be raised through increases without danger of impairment of the service. Mr. New renewed his original suggestion that the whole matter be deferred until the result of cost ascertainment now in progress could be made known. The Senate May 21 took up the bill to increase the salaries of postal employees and made it unfinished business. (Press, May 22.)

Wheat in Canada The Wall Street Journal for May 22 says: "It is estimated by the Bank of Montreal that at this date Canada has between 100,000,000 and 110,000,000 bushels of wheat available for export. The key to the wheat situation for the next few months is in Canada. Therefore, the movement of wheat from that country for the next few weeks should be carefully watched. After making a liberal allowance for unmerchantable grain and loss in cleaning, and adding the carry-over, the Dominion had officially 448,261,000 bushels of wheat as of September 1, 1923. Last year Canada used 81,000,000 bushels for feed and seed, so 100,000,000 bushels would be a liberal estimate for domestic use and carry-over. This should leave 348,000,000 bushels available for export in the twelve months between September 1, 1923, and August 31, 1924. Official returns show that between September 1, 1923, and March 31, 1924, Canada exported 229,000,000 bushels of wheat and flour. According to these official figures that left 119,000,000 bushels still available for export on September 1. There is also an estimate showing that on April 1 mills and elevators of Canada held 117,600,000 bushels of wheat, 14,150,000 were in transit and 70,750,000 bushels on the farms. This is a total of 202,500,000 bushels. As the farm supply would more than furnish seed and feed requirements until the next harvest the 119,000,000 bushels, officially estimated available for export on April 1, was all there with a goodly margin over. Official figures are evidence that the bank has made a conservative estimate of the wheat still available for export. This quantity that the bank says Canada holds is more than one-half the probable world import requirements for the balance of the season. As we are actually short of hard wheat it is probable that Canada will hold the export trade for the remainder of the season. This surplus is a large amount for Canada to ship inside of three months. But as the world is taking import wheat in greater volume than a year ago,

it is to be hoped that Canada can work off its supply before the next harvest. If that is done the stage would at least be better prepared for a bullish turn in case present unfavorable weather indications developed into anything serious."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 22: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.60 for the top and $7.15 to $7.55 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $8.15 to $11.10; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $10.25; feeder steers $5.50 to $10.25; light and medium weight veal calves $8.50 to $11.25 and fat lambs $13 to $15.25.

Eastern Round White potatoes nearly steady at $1.65 to $1.85 sacked per 100 pounds, top of $2 in Boston. Northern Round Whites 5¢ higher in Chicago at $1.20 to $1.35. Florida Spaulding Rose 25¢ to 50¢ lower at $7.75 to $8.25 per double head barrel in leading eastern markets. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions lower at $1.50 to $2 per standard crate in city wholesale markets; 90¢ to $1 f.o.b. Tennessee Klondike strawberries 50¢ lower in Chicago at $3.25 to $3.50 per 24-quart crate; $2.25 to $2.50 f.o.b.

Average closing grain prices May 22: No.1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.15 1/4 to $1.33 1/4. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.08 to $1.14; Kansas City $1.06 to $1.12; St. Louis $1.07 to $1.08. No.3 red winter Chicago $1.07. No.2 red winter Kansas City $1.08, St. Louis $1.14 to $1.16. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 82¢; Minneapolis 73 to 73 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn St.Louis 82 1/2 to 84¢; Minneapolis 71 1/2 to 72 1/2¢. No.2 white corn Kansas City 80¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 48 1/4 to 48 3/4¢; St. Louis 50¢; Minneapolis 49 1/2¢.

Closing wholesale prices to-day on 92 score butter: New York 39 1/2¢, Chicago 37 1/2¢, Philadelphia 40 1/2¢, Boston 39 1/2¢

Spot cotton down 15 points, closing at 30.59¢ per lb. New York May future contracts down 16 points, closing at 31.97¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 22,	May 21,	May 22, 1923.
20 Industrials	90.10	89.35	93.58
20 R.R. stocks	82.58	82.38	80.63

(Wall St. Jour., May 23.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 24, 1924.

Section 1

Agricultural Bill Passes Senate — The Senate yesterday passed the annual agriculture appropriation bill, carrying a total of approximately $61,000,000. Several items cut by the House below budget estimates were restored by the Senate. The appropriation for cattle and sheep quarantine was increased $25,000, for meat inspection $25,000, for investigation of tree diseases $12,000, and for the Forest Service $65,000. As passed the bill sets aside $2,135,000 for fighting crop pests, $892,000 for the Biological Survey, $4,423,000 for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, $1,000,000 for acquisition of forest lands, $452,000 for enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards act, and $13,000,000 for Federal highways. (Press, May 24.)

Outdoor Recreation Conference — Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and chairman of the National Conference of Outdoor Recreation, said at the meeting yesterday: "The success of the conference called by President Coolidge is assured. The delegates have ably responded to the call and behind them will be the influence of the Government in making effective the ways and means to be devised for the co-ordination, along lines laid down by the President, of the Nation's resources, giving the people enlarged opportunities to enjoy outdoor life and sports, and at the same time giving increased protection to birds, flowers, fish, game and wild life of all sorts."

Consideration of Power Resources — The Senate agricultural committee yesterday continued consideration of various proposals for the development of Muscle Shoals, Chairman Norris asserting that if the proposed Government development of power resources at Great Falls, near this city, was effected and the Government held Muscle Shoals a gigantic power system, extending from Maine to New Orleans, could be created, with the Government holding the two important "keys."

The whole annual flow of streams in the United States will be conserved some time in the future, Philip P. Wells, Deputy Attorney General of Pennsylvania, and associate of Governor Pinchot when he was chief of the Government Forest Service, told the Senate agriculture committee at yesterday's Muscle Shoals hearing. Already in Pennsylvania, he said, the power companies were storing the entire flow of the streams, and this practice is spreading over the country. He said Chairman Norris' bill was the only proposal which covered all phases of the Muscle Shoals proposition. (Press, May 24.)

Potash Deposits — The Senate May 22 adopted the Sheppard resolution providing for an investigation to determine the extent of potash deposits in the United States and improved methods of recovering potash. (Press, May 23.)

Section 2

Agricultural Conditions

Hiram Johnson, writing in The New York World for May 23, says: "One section of our country alone is in distress, and because of the general prosperity elsewhere more acutely do we feel that distress and more readily would we relieve it. The farmer today not only suffers from low prices but from the high cost of production. What he sells is low and what he buys is high. His dollar is below par. Overproduction has added greatly to the farmer's difficulties. Conditions to him are not normal so long as he is not able to exchange his day's labor with all other kinds of labor. He is entitled to a fair wage and a reasonable return on his capital. He is not getting it. Credit schemes alone will not save him from bankruptcy. He must have a market for his products at a fair price. Cooperation of course would aid him, but cooperation of millions is a difficult thing after all. There should be effective cooperation of the Government with the farmer. It is not sufficient to say to the farmer that he must lift himself by his bootstraps from the terrible predicament in which he finds himself. The Government must obtain for him lower freight rates. It must in effective fashion scrutinize the spread between production and consumption. It must not only promote cooperation among the farmers themselves, but it must also sympathetically cooperate with them."

Austria Plans Tariff

A Vienna dispatch to the press of May 23 says: "The Vienna, Austrian and Hungarian Governments will introduce simultaneously new protective tariff laws aimed to increase the customs revenue but which, it is feared, especially in Austria's case, will increase living costs immensely. The Austrian bill reintroduces a tariff on grain and iron, which have been free since the armistice, and doubles the duties on various foodstuffs and textiles, the latter already carrying a heavy load."

Banking in the Northwest

H. Parker Willis says in The Magazine of Wall Street for May 24: "The state of things in the Northwest has been the source of a good deal of anxiety, not only to the administration but to bankers in the eastern part of the country for some months past, and it is important to form some conclusion as to the real situation and outlook, as well as with reference to the prospects for the early future. A good many of the banks in the grain-growing States are, like others, carrying balances with banks elsewhere in the country; and from time to time asking these others for accommodation when circumstances seem to require it. This makes the present state of things, on the scale which has now developed, one of national significance and interest. It is probably not realized that the extent of the bank failures in the Northwest has been a good deal broader than has been generally stated. According to the facts now at hand, the total number of failures since January 1 is over 325, a total which seems large when stated numerically, but is not so large when it is remembered that the banks which failed were most of them small weak institutions with comparatively trifling assets so that the aggregate of the assets of the failed banks is not as alarming as it otherwise would be.

Nevertheless, the fact that so many banking units actually had to go out of business is a legitimate ground for anxiety, since it means that a great many communities have had to bear the burden and suffering resulting from the closing of one or more banks in their area. This of course means tremendous inconvenience to business, as well as the tying up of the savings of the depositors. The fact that the failure movement has now gotten into one of the large cities of the Northwest (Minneapolis) has, of course, added significance to the northwestern conditions, particularly in view of all that has been done through the establishment of the new Agricultural Credits Corporation, and through the extension of the life of the War Finance Corporation, to provide aid for banks that are deserving of assistance. This very phase of the matter is the one that is receiving most attention just now, since it appears that there are two general troubles with nearly all of the weak northwestern banks; (1) the freezing of assets in long term for such as land mortgages, and (2) the depreciation of paper and assets through reduction of prices of lands and securities. It is along these lines that an important warning is afforded to country banks in other sections. It is also to be borne in mind that the northwestern situation has been unfavorably affected by causes which are peculiar to the banking organization itself. One is the 'overbanking' which has been going on there....The question whether the end of the present movement has come or not can not, of course, be absolutely answered, but there is considerable reason for believing that, if not already arrived, it is well within sight."

Butter Tariff

An editorial in Chicago Dairy Produce for May 20 says: "In the event that the movement for a higher butter tariff should get to the point where it would come before the Tariff Commission for hearings and argument, the outcome would not only be uncertain but a decision would probably be delayed for some time. Uncertainty would arise from the fact that the dairy interests are not all of one mind as to the advisability of trying to meet the situation with a higher tariff, and there would be opposition among dairy interests. The failure of the present tariff to provide the expected protection is brought about by the rate of exchange, or by the higher value of our money. Under these circumstances appeal to the tariff as a remedy is regarded by many with doubt. But other suggestions are being made. Our New York correspondent suggested an import charge as a means of arriving at a remedy. Still other suggestions will doubtless be presented as soon as the matter comes up for public hearings....The point we are getting at is to find a way to protect our own butter interest and to prevent our country from being a dumping ground for other countries. We have the best market in the world, we can consume all the butter we make at home, and our own butter should have the necessary protection in our own markets."

Cotton Supply

The Wall Street Journal for May 23 says: "Our cotton supply is so low that the market for the staple this summer may well be unusually sensitive to crop conditions. The first official report will be published on June 2 and private information seems to forecast a poor condition. If so, an upward trend in prices will be the logical outcome. But after this report there will be plenty

left in the situation to make the market an interesting study. There are even some facts that may give the price a bearish turn, for a short time at least. One of these is the prospect for June. Cotton always looks its best in that month and in the early part of July. Sometimes June promises are realized, but the man who deals in cotton should give the situation special study this year before committing himself on the fair outlook in the middle of the season. There are other bearish factors to be taken into account, as, for instance, acreage. That for this year is the largest in history. If we could have the average yield to the acre prevailing before complete weevil infestation a crop of enormous proportions would be picked. Then, too, much of the expansion of acreage is in Texas, and at the moment that State has the best prospect of any in the cotton belt. The Texas crop has passed the danger of cool weather without serious damage or damage that can not be retrieved. Cotton may be said to have had a good season in the ground. Much of the increased acreage is in the extreme West, where the weevils have not appeared. Indeed, that territory is so dry that the danger of infestation seems negligible. Also from all over the belt come reports of increased sales of fertilizers in April. This increase is proportionately more than that in acreage. The farmer who fertilizes well and intelligently and follows with good cultivation is taking the first steps to beat the weevil. Fertilization and cultivation are essential to make the crop; calcium arsenate treatment follows to protect it. But the crop must be made before it can be 'protected.' These are bearish factors to be patiently watched through the month of June."

Electricity on Farms

The report of the rural electric service committee of the National Electric Light Association at its convention at Atlantic City May 22 revealed that only 2½ per cent, or 164,347 of the 6,500,000 farmers in the United States are receiving service from electric companies. The report said that about 200,000 other farmers are enjoying limited electric service through the medium of individual farm lighting and power plants. A survey was made by the committee at the request of the United States Department of Agriculture in connection with research work now being carried on by a committee known as the committee on the relation of electricity to agriculture. It is predicted by the committee that the electrification of the farm will proceed in much the same manner as has the electrification of manufacture and industry generally and that during the next twenty years there will be as great a revolution in farming methods because of the application of electrical power as there has been in industry and commerce during the last two decades. (N.Y.Times, May 23.)

Forestry Campaign

National forestry problems were discussed by Professor Henry S. Graves, Dean of Forestry at Yale and former head of the United States Forest Service, at the annual meeting of the New York Foresters' Club at New York May 22. Little effort is being made in many States to practice constructive forestry, according to Professor Graves, although the national policy is more far-reaching than ever attempted, in that it attempts to enlist the

aid of forest-using industries. He thought the United States Government should provide about $100,000,000 in the next fifteen or twenty years to teach the advantages of forest preservation. (N.Y.Times, May 23.)

Market Prospect The Magazine of Wall Street for May 24 says: "The recent action of the stock market clearly reflects the combined influence of declining business operations and political unsettlement. The decline in business, however, is a surface development arising from a basic economic situation which has been in need of rectification for a considerable period. The essential fact is that production costs have not yet been adjusted to permit an adequate margin of profit under relatively adverse conditions such as the present. The principal difficulty is the high wage scale which must be adjusted on a downward basis before a sustained general upturn in business can occur. That the situation is already commencing to react against labor may be appreciated from the fact that common labor in the Midwest (in some districts) is now obtainable at 30 cents an hour, the lowest figure for many years. Some farm districts which heretofore have had difficulty in securing labor at convenient terms now find an abundant supply at low costs. These are the accumulating evidences of a period of general industrial readjustment. Unemployment, generally, is growing and the buying power consequently is being reduced. The effect is witnessed in lower sales all around. That business is not yet ready for an upturn is witnessed by the insignificant effect of the reduction in the rediscount rate of the New York Federal Reserve bank. Demand for commercial credit is at low ebb and the current low interest rates have not at all stimulated business into a condition of great activity. Profits of most industrial corporations during the first quarter of the year were unsatisfactory, as compared with the same period last year. Second quarter earnings are expected to be even more unsatisfactory. The many uncertainties in the situation prevail to influence business interests on the side of great caution in their commitments. To this may be added the effect of the uncertain political outlook."

Water Power Franklin T. Griffith, of Portland, Ore., chairman of the committee of water power development of the National Electric Light Association, at its convention at Atlantic City, May 22, warned the people of the United States not to give undue credence to the maze of propaganda and discussion of so-called "water power predominance in industrial development." He said: "Water power development to the extent that it can be profitably undertaken, will conserve fuel, but the growth of the power requirements of the Nation has been and will continue to be so vast that development of all water power resources can not reduce the present annual requirements of the Nation for fuel used in the production of power." Touching on the question of Government development of water power, he said: "There is no need for Governmental aid in financing the development of water power or any other form of power required by the people of the United States. With a negligible exception, the electric energy required for the use of the people to-day has been and is being supplied by private investment and operation under public regulation." (N.Y.Times, May 23.)

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 23: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.60 for the top and $7.10 to $7.55 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.90 to $10.85; butcher cows and heifers $4.50 to $10; feeder steers $5.50 to $10.25; light and medium weight veal calves $8 to $11; fat lambs $13 to $15.15; yearlings $10.25 to $13.25; fat ewes $4.50 to $7.75.

Eastern Round White potatoes nearly steady at $1.65 to $2, sacked per 100 lbs. Northern sacked Round Whites steady in Chicago at $1.20 to $1.35. Florida Spaulding Rose generally $1 lower, closing at $7.75 to $8.25 per double head barrel. South Carolina Cobblers $7 to $7.50 per bbl. in Baltimore. New York Baldwin apples closed at $4.75 to $5 per barrel in New York; mostly $3.50 to $4.25 in other eastern markets. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions 10 to 25¢ lower in eastern cities at $1.65 to $1.90 per standard crate; about steady in midwestern markets at $1.50 to $2, mostly 85 to 90¢ f.o.b. Cabbage markets weak. South Carolina Wakefield declined sharply closing at $2 to $2.50 per bbl. crate in New York; a few sales at $1 to $1.25 f.o.b. Tennessee Klondike strawberries 25 to 50¢ lower in midwestern cities, selling at $2.75 to $3.25 per 24-quart crate; $2.25 to $2.50 f.o.b.

Average closing grain prices May 23: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.16 5/8 to $1.34 5/8. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.11 1/2 to $1.13; Kansas City $1.07 to $1.18; St.Louis $1.08 to $1.08 1/2. No.2 red Kansas City $1.08; St. Louis $1.15 to $1.16. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 80 to 80 1/2¢; Minneapolis 73 to 73 1/2¢. No.3 yellow corn St. Louis 82 to 82 1/2¢; Kansas City 78¢; Minneapolis 72 to 72 1/2¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 78 to 79 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 3/4 to 48 1/2¢; Minneapolis 44 3/4 to 45 1/4¢; St. Louis 49 to 49 1/2¢, Kansas City 49 1/4¢.

Closing prices, 92 score butter: New York 39¢; Chicago 37¢; Philadelphia 40¢; Boston 39¢.

Spot cotton down 4 points, closing at 30.55¢ per lb. New York July future contracts up 7 points, closing at 29.30¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 23,	May 22,	May 23, 1923
20 Industrials	90.04	90.10	93.90
20 R.R. stocks	82.88	82.58	80.91

(Wall St. Jour., May 24.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 26, 1924.

Section 1

The Tax Bill — The conference report on the tax reduction bill was approved May 24 by the Senate. It will be taken up by the House today, and if accepted there unchanged will be sent to the President. The report is a compromise between the Senate and the House bills, carrying the Senate Democratic income rate schedule and the House provision for limited publicity of returns and no change in the present corporation tax. (Press, May 25.)

Bird Refuge Legislation — A bill proposing establishment of a migratory bird refuge commission, which would have charge of the creation and maintenance of game preserves, was favorably reported in the Senate May 24. (Press, May 25.)

World Court Plan — An amended proposal for American membership in the world court was approved by the Senate foreign relations committee May 24 and placed on the Senate calendar, where it is expected to repose undisturbed during the two remaining weeks of the session. The resolution was prepared by Senator Pepper, who said it was built on the foundation laid down by President Harding and approved by President Coolidge. (Press, May 25.)

Farm Aid Urged — Fear that the economic depression in the Northwest will spread eastward unless something is done to increase the western farmers' purchasing power was expressed by Governor McMaster, of South Dakota, during a conference May 24 with President Coolidge. He presented arguments to the President in behalf of the McNary-Haugen farm relief bill. (Wash. Post, May 25.)

Outdoor Recreation Conference — At its concluding session at Washington on Saturday, President Coolidge's National Conference on Outdoor Recreation proposed the calling by the Washington Government of an international conference to formulate conventions "to protect migratory wild fowl and insectivorous birds." The proposal was approved unanimously and Theodore Roosevelt, chairman of the conference, said Secretary Hughes would be consulted at once regarding issuance of the call to the various countries interested. The conference, which was called by President Coolidge to co-ordinate the natural resources of the country for the better enjoyment of the people and increase protection accorded wild life, also voted to organize itself permanently, in order to continue the work started in the three-day meeting here. A resolution to this effect was adopted unanimously. (Press, May 25.)

Section 2

Agriculture

H. J. Waters says in The Kansas City Star for May 21: "It is estimated by the Department of Agriculture that we have from 15 to 20 per cent fewer brood sows now than we had at this time last year. Farmers, according to this preliminary estimate, are cutting down hog production because hogs have made no money in the last year and they are expanding their corn production because corn has paid a profit for two years in a row. That hogs are low and corn is high is reason enough for easing off in the production of one and emphasizing somewhat the production of the other, provided, of course, that in making the shift we do not overdo it and run into a situation in which we have too much corn and too few hogs. Unfortunately, it is the thing we have least of, as a rule, that brings the best price; the thing we have most of sells so low as to yield little profit. The farmer is not to be so seriously censured for pursuing this seemingly unsteady policy, particularly at a time when he is so sorely in need of finding something that will return a profit. He is justified under the circumstances, he feels, in trying almost anything that is promising. But there is no way of controlling production or of knowing beforehand what the output is to be. When we plan corn, for example, we have in prospect a 3½-billion-bushel crop, but it may yield as little as 2½ billion bushels. The farmer has done his part toward producing this larger crop, but through the interference of drought, floods, frosts, insect pests and diseases the minimum harvest may be the result. The same is true, broadly speaking, of all farm productions, and as a consequence attempts to keep production in accurate adjustment with market demands are almost futile. Experience has shown that the safe course is to set up the soundest possible system of production under our conditions of soil, climate and location and to pursue that system with little attempt to follow temporary fluctuations in the market. Surveys made in many States without exception show that those farmers who have pursued this middle course consistently and have kept out of the speculative field are the farmers who have succeeded best. The highest percentage of business failures among farmers has been in that class which most frequently attempts to forecast the changes in the market, or that class which speculates most. It is this middle ground farmer in the long run who owns his farm clear; lives in the best house in the neighborhood; drives the best car and has the most money out on interest, all because he is pursuing the soundest policy known in carrying on his business."

Cheese

An editorial in Hoard's Dairyman for May 23 says: "According to Government figures, this country is importing two-thirds of a pound of foreign type cheese, such as Swiss, Brick, and Limburger, for every pound made in Wisconsin. We have not been wise in the manufacture and marketing of foreign type cheese. Two or three years ago there was a large demand especially for Swiss cheese and the prices for this cheese became unusually high. The manufacturers, instead of curing their Swiss cheese until it

was of the best quality, sold it when it was green and immature. This caused the American consumer to turn toward the imported type and to pay fifty to one hundred per cent more per pound for foreign made cheese rather than to buy the domestic product. We recently purchased 5 lbs. of imported Swiss cheese in Chicago and during the course of our remarks to the salesman, we stated that as good Swiss cheese was made in this country as in Switzerland. He scoffed at the statement. It is quite possible the cheese purchased for imported cheese was manufactured in this country but had been held in storage until it was properly cured. The manufacturers of foreign type cheese should put an end to the short-sighted policy of marketing green and improperly cured cheeses. The way to increase the consumption of cheese, no matter what type, is to provide a quality which appeals to the taste of the consumer. When foreign cheese sells for 20 cents a pound more than domestic cheese, it is time we woke up to the opportunity of making and putting on the market a better quality cheese."

Cooperative Marketing

An editorial in Western Farmer for May 15 says: "For the last three decades labor, and every other industry except farming, has been building an organization and has become a dominant factor. So that when the depression in 1920 set in, on account of the organization of industry and labor, it was possible for them to resist more successfully the pressure for lower prices than the farmer. Therefore, the answer seems to be a great need of organization on the part of farmers to handle cooperatively the things which they produce, and to exercise a substantial control upon the flow of their products to market, which is such an important factor in the making of prices. Cooperative marketing associations are no longer an experiment. Through organization the American farmer will find a way to restore the proper relationship between the prices he receives for his products and the prices he pays for other commodities. The solution of the problem rests with the farmer himself. The road is a long one but sure, and while his efforts may not be so very noticeable at once, organization is the only way out of his dilemma."

Dairy Marketing in New England

An editorial in New England Homestead for May 17 says: "If the New England-wide dairy marketing system functions along lines now contemplated, farmers are likely to find it hog-tight and bull proof. The system incorporates the strong features of experiences that have gone before and likewise attempts to avoid the weaknesses. It is never safe to prophesy except with qualifications. New England Homestead ventures, with the qualification of good management, that the proposed system if indorsed and put into effect by New England dairymen will bring specialists from all over the United States within three years to learn how New England did it. Indeed, famous Denmark may cast envious glances across the Atlantic....One of the best features of the system plan is that each dairyman profits according to his ability. No attempt is made to subsidize inefficiency. Indifferent producers producing an inferior product from low producing cows will find dairying

doesn't pay. It is best they should. In the proposed plan the farmer who produces a grade A product gets a grade A price. The man who produces a questionable product gets a questionable return. ....Another commendable feature of the proposed system is that definite economics and justifiable returns for quality may be secured in the near future. A businesslike system is set up which has the power and the machinery to command the needed things at the needed time. Instead of waiting years for 300 more local creameries to be formed and then twice that time for them to 'federate' their varying systems and management into a harmonious whole, the proposed system starts at once with a definite goal in view with each and every step taken with the idea of New England as a whole."

Evaporated Milk Association

An editorial in Chicago Dairy Produce for May 20 says: "The news columns this week contain the announcement of a new dairy manufacturing organization, the Evaporated Milk Association, with executive office in Chicago, administered by a high class group of officers and a vigorous well equipped 'pivot man' in Herbert C. Hooks. This branch of the dairy industry has come rapidly to the foreground in recent years. Production has increased steadily and domestic markets have been expanding quite well while the export market has held its own. In 1923 there were exported 136,886,328 pounds of evaporated (unsweetened) alone and this represented over thirteen and a half million dairy dollars The canned milk interests have a very definite market and encroach very little on the fluid outlets, yet it has been perhaps the most fertile field for substitute invasion of any in the dairy family. The existing dairy agencies have rallied to the canned milk cause on every occasion and have been of material protective service. With a unit of its own to watch its dairy fences this organization undoubtedly will prove of material value all along the line."

Muscle Shoals

The Journal of Commerce for May 23 says: "The committee on agriculture has refused to report the Ford offer for Muscle Shoals to the Senate, although its supporters have not yet abandoned their efforts to bring it to a vote. The widespread publicity that has been given to the Ford offer and the able work done by opponents of the measure in the House and in the Senate are the chief reasons for thinking that if the measure should be put to a vote it would fail of passage. Added to that, Mr. Ford's steadfast refusal to testify before the committees that have been studying his offer and his stubborn silence in regard to the whole matter have unquestionably alienated some uncritical supporters upon whom he might otherwise have counted. Then there is a group in Congress who oppose the Ford measure not because it unduly favors an individual citizen but because it would transfer Government property into private hands. The next stage in the controversy will soon be reached, and in all probability will be fought out along the lines suggested by the ex-Secretary of War, Mr. Baker, in his letter protesting against the Ford offer. Mr. Baker wants development to proceed under Government ownership and control--a proposition to which one need not object in principle if it can be shown that the Government is likely to operate the Muscle Shoals

project as efficiently and as economically as private capital. The burden of proof rests upon the advocates of Government operation in the light of past achievements. Since the public interest can be effectively safeguarded under the terms of the Federal Water Power act an a priori decision would certainly be in favor of some form of private contract."

Russia

The Journal of Commerce for May 22 says: "Russia is quick to profit by the example of her neighbors whenever it suits her purpose. It seems that the Soviet representatives, like those of other nations, are not averse to paying their debts if anyone will lend them money with which to do it. To date this is the only reported result of the Anglo-Russian debt conference which has been dragging along in London. The Russians say they will consider claims of bondholders whose investments antedate March, 1917, if a long term loan can be arranged with the assistance of the British Government. The British delegates are stated to have taken a 'sympathetic' attitude toward a privately raised, unguaranteed loan. All that can be said is that the prospects held out to Mexican bondholders seem quite rosy by contrast with the conditions faced by the owners of Russian bonds."

Water Power 1

In an editorial on the subject of super-power systems, The New York Times for May 23 says: "The greatest economies would come only through an ocean-to-ocean super-power system. Not a sixth of the total water power available in the North American Continent is at present utilized, though there are applications on file with the Federal Power Commission for a very considerable portion of what is left in the United States. We shall not get the best economic results unless the hydroelectric and steam plants are tied together in a system which makes each the supplement of the other, ignoring State and municipal lines, and even national boundaries, for great sources of power lie in the waters beyond our northern borders."

2

The Journal of Commerce for May 24 says: "Well informed technical students of such problems have in recent addresses at Atlantic City warned the people of this country not to take many of the current statements concerning the miracles of further water power developments too seriously. These speakers are all convinced of the need and economy of proper development and utilization of all the hydroelectric power available in this country, but are wisely of the opinion that nothing of value is to be gained by overstating cases. There is certainly a good deal worthy of careful thoughtin the words of these engineers. Preachers of miracles in connection with 'super-power' developments and others of that ilk, now altogether too numerous in our midst, may possibly do some good, but they are more than certain to accomplish a good deal that is not good. Neither by water power or in any other way can the miraculous be attained, and attempt to lead the rank and file of the people to expect more than can be obtained is sure to lead to disappointment and loss."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

For the week ended May 24: Stocker and feeder shipments from 12 important markets during the week ending May 16 were: Cattle and calves 47,175; hogs 7,810; sheep 10,888. In eastern wholesale fresh meat markets beef is weak to 50¢ lower; lamb weak to $2 and mutton $1 to $4 off. Pork loins are $2 lower to $1 higher.

Eastern old potatoes about steady at $1.65 to $2, sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites steady at $1.20 to $1.35 in Chicago. Florida Spaulding Rose 25¢ to $1 lower at $7.50 to $8.25 per double head barrel in eastern cities. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions sold generally lower at $1.50 to $1.90 per standard crate in consuming centers; 85¢ to 90¢ f.o.b. Cabbage markets weak. Alabama early Summer $3 in New York; few sales $1.25 to $1.50 f.o.b. Tennessee Klondike strawberries nearly steady in Cincinnati and Chicago at $2.75 to $3.25 per 24-quart crate; $2.25 to $2.35 f.o.b.

Wheat market continues firm at an advance of one to two cents for the week. Mills good buyers. Receipts light. Corn market also higher for week but demand of only moderate volume. Oats steady.

Quoted May 24, 1924: No.1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.17 to $1.35. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.08 to $1.11; Kansas City $1.05 to $1.12; St. Louis $1.09 1/2 to $1.10. No.2 red winter St. Louis $1.15 to $1.16. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 80 to 81¢; Kansas City 78 1/2¢; Minneapolis 73 1/2¢. No.3 yellow St. Louis 79 1/2 to 80¢; Minneapolis 71 1/2 to 72 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 1/4 to 48 1/4¢; Kansas City 50¢; St. Louis 49 1/2¢; Minneapolis 45¢.

Butter markets unsettled during the week, receipts on markets running heavier and movement into storage has begun in a small way. Closing wholesale prices to-day on 92 score butter: New York 39¢, Chicago 37¢, Philadelphia 40¢, Boston 39¢.

Timothy hay markets continue firm on light receipts of hay.

Quoted May 23: No.1 timothy Boston $30.50, New York $31.50, Pittsburgh $26.50, Cincinnati $24.50, Chicago $27, St. Louis $25.50, Kansas City $19.50. No.1 alfalfa--Kansas City $24.50, Omaha $20, Memphis $31. No.1 prairie--Kansas City $13, Omaha $13, St. Louis $19.

Cheese markets following uncertain trend. Closing wholesale prices at Wisconsin primary markets May 23: Single Daisies 18¢; Longhorns 18 1/2¢; Square Prints 19¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets advanced 86 points during the week, closing at 30.85¢ per lb. New York July future contracts advanced 119 points, closing at 29.70¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 24,	May 23,	May 24, 1923.
20 Industrials	90.66	90.04	96.03
20 R.R. stocks	82.96	82.88	82.70

(Wall St. Jour., May 26.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 27, 1924.

Section 1

Immigration Bill Signed — The immigration bill, with its provision for Japanese exclusion, was signed yesterday by President Coolidge. In a statement given out soon after he had signed the bill, the President explained that he had approved the bill because it had many desirable features and a comprehensive act was necessary at this time, but that he would have vetoed it if Japanese exclusion had stood alone. (Press, May 27.)

The Tax Bill — The conference report on the 1924 tax reduction bill was approved in the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon by a vote of 376 to 9. Two hours later the bill was sent to the White House, where the measure's advocates expect President Coolidge to sign it. On receiving the bill President Coolidge sent it immediately to the Treasury Department for report, analysis and recommendations. At the Treasury Department it was said the report could be made in a very short time, probably by to-day or tomorrow. Further study by Secretary Mellon has convinced him, it is said, that the bill is more acceptable than the present law, or the carrying into effect only of a 25 per cent reduction on income taxes for 1923, as would result if the President vetoed the present law and the veto were sustained. (Press, May 27.)

Butter Decision — Butter holding 16 per cent or more of moisture is not "adulterated" under the Act of May 9, 1902, the United States Supreme Court held yesterday, and is not subject to a tax of 10 cents a pound, unless an abnormal quantity of water is added. Paying the tax under protest, the Tilden Produce Company, of St. Paul, had obtained an order from the Federal District Court of Minnesota for return of the tax, and the Court of Appeals affirmed the decision, holding invalid the Treasury Department's regulations, which made butter containing 16 per cent or more of moisture subject to taxation as adulterated. (Press, May 27.)

Farmer for Trade Commission — Charles W. Hunt, secretary of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, was nominated by President Coolidge yesterday to be a member of the Federal Trade Commission, succeeding Victor Murdock, of Kansas, who recently resigned. (Press, May 27.)

Ford May Plant Rubber in Florida — A Tampa, Fla., dispatch to the press to-day states that the purchase by Henry Ford of a tract of over a thousand acres in Hendry County centering around Labelle, the county seat, announced May 26, is believed to presage the early development of an immense rubber growing industry in Florida. Mr. Ford is reported to have paid more than a half million dollars for the acreage, which includes the town site of Goodno and the public utilities and a number of buildings of the town of Labelle.

Section 2

American Potato Bug in Germany — A Berlin dispatch to the press of May 26 says that Germany has begun guarding her frontiers against a possible invasion of the American potato bug, which is reported to be overrunning parts of France. The pest is said to have been introduced into France in the region of Bordeaux by the American Expeditionary Forces during the war. As a preventive measure the German Government has prohibited the importation of potato, tomato, gooseberry and similar plants, upon which the potato bug is said to feed, and peasants everywhere are being urged to look out for the first sight of the bug and to report to the police or other authorities.

Cotton Supplies in Britain — A London dispatch to the press of May 26 says: "The British cotton market is now in a condition in which cautious buying is considered necessary. May and June are usually rather quiet months for buyers, but at the present time foreign markets are very bare of goods and they are buying when under normal conditions they would be holding off. Consumers here, however, are not buying raw materials at all freely. It is still hoped here that America will produce a big crop, which is causing spinners to defer purchases. Germany has figured largely as a buyer of textiles but fears are expressed that this boom is coming to an end owing to the credit difficulties in Germany."

Dairying in the Northwest — Commercial West for May 24 says: "Since the organization of the Agricultural Credit Corporation renewed interest in dairying has been awakened throughout the Northwest. More than half a hundred associations have been organized for the purpose of placing improved dairy stock on farms. These associations are receiving help from the Agricultural Credit Corporation and to date means have been provided to advance a million dollars to be spent for dairy cattle. Minnesota is one of the Northwestern States which has made rapid advancement in dairying during the past 10 years. The Minnesota Cooperative Creamery Association, a selling organization handling the output of 450 of the 600 cooperative creameries in the State, sold 90 million pounds of butter in 1923. This is about 50 per cent of the butter output of the State. With the momentum given dairying by the better dairy cattle movement and its expansion the butter output will be vastly increased... While the consumption of dairy products is increasing in our own land we should consider the fact that owing to the financial and exchange conditions in European countries our exports are now at a minimum. There appears to be little danger that dairying will be overdone in the Northwest. The movement for placing better cattle on farms means much and will eventually prove most beneficial to northwestern farming."

Freight Rates and Agriculture — The Chronicle for May 24 says: "Declaring agriculture to be the 'basic industry' and instructing the Inter-State Commerce Commission to lower freight rates in the interest of farmers, is the 'last straw' in congressional legislation looking to the control of business. What does it mean? Is it not ordering one industry to work for another without consideration of conditions affecting the

second party to the contract? But even this does not express the principle involved. For, since we have a governmental rate-making power, neither agriculture nor transportation can make a contract. You say this has been the case ever since we have had an Interstate Commerce Commission. And it is true. But there have been investigations by the commission prior to the ordering of a rate, investigations designed to elicit information which would justify a rate to the carrier and to the shipper. Now Congress suggests arbitrarily a new and lower rate....Look squarely at the whole question for a moment. Admit unfortunate conditions in the wheat-growing Northwest; admit certain heavy losses in land and stock prices; admit, also, in the interest of truth, that the productive power of the farms is unimpaired and the working, intelligent farmer has his plant in as good a condition as is normally the case. Then, look at the legislation offering him many new credit facilities; look at the slow and inconstant readjustment, undoubtedly in his favor, through the aftermath of the war; look at so-called 'purchasing power' of organized labor and protected manufacture, a power to buy and pay for the commodities the farmer alone can produce; and then say, if you can, there is justification for arbitrarily lowering freight rates in the interest of this 'basic industry.' As far as agriculture being the basic industry, in a strict economic sense, there is no doubt about it. This pronouncement on that point is nothing new. But because it is 'basic' is the very reason why it must stand on a foundation established 'in the nature of things.' It can not be said that an industry so fundamentally necessary to all others should be granted a gratuity wrung from the whole body of industry by artificial, legislative means. Yet this is just the position it is now made to occupy by political intrigue and design. Suppose we continue the process of lowering rates until the railroads are bankrupt. What then? Will this 'basic industry' prosper without transportation and markets? We are not attempting for a moment to pass upon fair rates to either of these parties. We do not know what they are. We very much doubt the ability of the Interstate Commerce Commission to ascertain what they are. We do know, as we have repeatedly said, that commodities compete with each other compelling the establishment of mean rates, and this outside the will of shipper or carrier. We do know that there is a certain normal total production to haul--that can not be increased by the attraction of cut rates as may sometimes be done with passenger traffic. We do know roads can never work out their own salvation while they are hampered by constant legislative restrictions and inhibitions. And we do know that the consumer 'pays the freight.' These being primal elements in the equation why seek to favor agriculture simply because it is the 'basic industry'?"

Outdoor Recreation Conference

At the concluding session of the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, at WWashington, May 24, among important resolutions approved were the following: That calling the attention of the Federal Government to the need for a careful survey of all available resources of publicly owned lands in order that adequate information regarding recreational facilities may be obtained, and

requesting Federal authorities to give consideration to the administration of such areas of public owned lands as are found to have special importance by reason of their availability for recreational purposes. That calling for the recognition by Federal authorities of the administration of lands transferred to the National Park Service, Forest Service, or to various States, which contain recreational advantages. That urging local, county, State and National Governments to acquire land and water areas suitable for recreation and preservation of wild life, as a form of the conservation of national resources until eventually there shall be public parks, forests and preserves within easy access of all people. That recommending that every city and town should possess for public recreation a wild park in which native vegetation is protected. That proposing an effective system of education on a scale greater than ever before attempted and having for its purpose bird, plant and flower conservation. (Press, May 25.)

Outdoor Recreation Spaces in Britain

An editorial on British "Open Spaces" in Country Life (London) for May 17 says: "In the excellent and most interesting speeches delivered on Saturday at the formal opening for public use of Hatfield Forest, the most serious was the very welcome law of 'No Collecting' laid down by the former Speaker of the House of Commons. Lord Ullswater explained that the Trust, of which he is the vice-president, is particularly interested in the preservation of the flora and fauna of the country. Under its tutelage he believed that the public are growing fonder of birds and butterflies, rare plants, and flowers and trees. That is a kind of thing which should be encouraged if only because, in itself, it is an education of the most valuable type; but it is obvious that, if an open space is to be a hunting ground of amateur collectors, whom the speaker described as some of the greatest enemies of flora and fauna, then one of the great objects of the Trust property would be defeated. Lord Ullswater said that the desire of the Trust was 'to increase the places where flora and fauna could multiply without being subjected to constant raids.' This is a matter that should be attended to by the local committees set up in the different counties in which Trust property is situated....It is obvious that the country which accepts such gifts, and particularly those who freely enjoy the pleasures to be found in wild nature in its most beautiful environments, incur at least a small responsibility. They can not do that in a body, but individually only; nor can it be said that they incur any very onerous duties. They are mostly those of self-control. The visitor should be made to understand that in defacement or injury he is sinning against the community."

Pulp Wood in Alberta

An Edmonton dispatch to the press of May 25 states that Alberta has enough pulp wood to supply the western portion of the United States with newsprint paper for 50 years, according to a report compiled by C. H. Morse, chief ranger for the Province. "Pulp wood resources in the province," Mr. Morse said, "total 247,800,000 cords. There are 53,900 square miles of pulp wood forests. Pine composes about 45 per cent of this growth; spruce, 20 per cent; poplar, 25 per cent, and other coniferous varieties, 10 per cent."

Russia

Clinton W. Gilbert, staff correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, who has recently returned from Russia, in May 22 issue says: "To clear up a few popular errors about Russia. One, that when America recognizes Russia, American capital will flow into Russia. I don't believe it will. It would accept oil and mining concessions from Russia if it could get them on favorable terms; but there is not a sign that the Soviet leaders will offer it favorable terms. Russia is not a sufficiently developed country to attract American capital into anything except purely pioneering enterprises like oil and mines. The Soviet Government will have to work out its own salvation with very little outside aid, either in the shape of revolutionary sympathies elsewhere or capital from other lands. If one may guess at the future, Russia and the more advanced western countries are approaching the same point from opposite directions. Extreme communism has been compromised away. Further compromises are likely until what will be left will be State ownership of the big industries, of transportation and the natural resources. There won't be any big interests in Russia. And if the capitalist system is forced to make compromises, it will be in the same direction, namely, of State ownership of transportation and natural resources. So little of the old system was worth saving that Russia could move swiftly by the way of a revolution toward a new system. No other country can or will."

In the May 23 issue, Mr. Gilbert says: "Moscow watches the Western World with as jealous and hostile an eye as Europe and America watch Moscow. There is a sense in Moscow, as there is in Paris, London or Washington, that the world can not permanently exist part Bolshevist and part capitalist and that in the end one system or the other must prevail. But my own conviction is that the Russian experiment may go on many years without either making converts of capitalistic countries or without itself confessing failure and surrendering to capitalism. This is true, I think, because of the remoteness of Russia and the undeveloped state of the country. The people will ask little of their governors, who, accordingly, will have ample time to work out their theories. Never was a country more favorably situated for a radical experiment than Russia is. It could discard all it had without great loss. Government control of natural resources was easy because they were undeveloped. The people have low standards of national success and will, therefore, be patient. And Russia itself is almost immune from attack by the outside world."

Tax Exempt Securities

An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for May 24 says: "It is estimated that if the tax-exempt privilege were removed the interest rate on public improvement bonds would automatically and at once be raised. Financiers have estimated the jump in interest would be at least one per cent. The place in which farmers would find a direct additional burden would be in the interest charged by banks operating under the Farm Loan law. At present the bonds issued by these banks are tax-free and the interest rate on farm mortgages is correspondingly less."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Farm Products

May 26: Eastern Old potatoes dull with a weaker tendency. New York Round Whites closed at $1.65 to $1.85, sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites 10 to 20¢ higher in Chicago at $1.25 to $1.40. Florida Spaulding Rose generally lower at $6.50 to $7.75 per double head barrel, top of $8 in Pittsburgh. New York Baldwin apples sold at $4 to $4.50 per barrel in leading eastern markets. Northwestern Extra Fancy Winesaps generally $2.50 to $2.75 per box. Texas onions steady in Chicago, slightly weaker elsewhere. Yellow Bermudas closed at $1.50 to $2 per standard crate in consuming centers, Crystal Wax $2 to $2.25 in Chicago. Cabbage markets weak. Tennessee Klondike strawberries 25¢ lower in Chicago at $3 to $3.25 per 24-quart crate; $2.25 to $2.40 f.o.b.

Chicago hog prices closed at $7.50 for the top and $7.05 to $7.45 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.90 to $10.85; butcher cows and heifers $4.35 to $9.85; feeder steers $5.50 to $10; light and medium weight veal calves $7.75 to $10.75; fat lambs $12.75 to $15; springs lambs $13.75 to $16; yearlings $10 to $13.

Average grain prices quoted May 26: No.1 dark northern spring spring wheat Minneapolis $1.17 3/4 to $1.35 3/4. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.08 1/2 to $1.11 3/4; Kansas City $1.05 to $1.13; St. Louis $1.08 1/2 to $1.09 1/2; No.2 red winter Kansas City $1.08; St. Louis $1.13 to $1.17. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 80 to 80 1/2¢; Minneapolis 73 1/2 to 74¢. No.3 yellow corn St. Louis 79 1/2 to 80¢; Kansas City 77 to 77 1/2¢; Minneapolis 72 to 73¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 79 1/2 to 80¢; Kansas City 76 to 77¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 to 48 1/4¢; Minneapolis 44 3/4¢ to 45 1/4¢; Kansas City 50¢; St. Louis 49 1/4¢.

Closing wholesale prices on 92 score butter: New York 39¢; Chicago 37¢; Philadelphia 40¢; Boston 39 1/2¢.

Spot cotton up 9 points, closing at 30.94¢ per lb. New York July future contracts up 10 points, closing at 29.80¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 26,	May 24,	May 26, 1923
20 Industrials	90.60	90.66	97.48
20 R.R. stocks	83.34	82.96	82.58

(Wall St. Jour., May 27.)

DAILY DIGEST

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May 28, 1924.

Section 1

Muscle Shoals Bill — Government ownership and operation of Muscle Shoals was indorsed yesterday by the Senate agriculture committee after Henry Ford's bid had been rejected. By a vote of 11 to 4 the committee adopted the Norris Government ownership bill as an amendment to the McKenzie bill, which passed the House authorizing acceptance of Ford's offer. A motion to report favorably the Ford bid was defeated, 11 to 5. The fight will now be taken to the floor of the Senate where an effort will be made to have a vote by the end of the week. (Press, May 28.)

Postal Salary Bill — The Senate yesterday adopted by a vote of 77 to 3 the postal salary bill. The bill was sent to the House. As passed by the Senate, the bill calls for a readjustment of the salaries of 300,000 postal employees, not including first and second class postmasters, which would necessitate an additional expenditure of about $60,000,000, according to the Senate committee's estimate. The Post Office Department has estimated that the expense might run as high as $70,000,000 or more. No provision is made in the bill for the raising of revenues, and the burden apparently would fall on the Treasury. The theory of the framers of the bill is that the additional funds will be provided by an upward readjustment of second-class postal rates and that there will be no additional burden on the Treasury's funds. (Press, May 28.)

World Court Plan — Senator Pepper yesterday formally reported to the Senate the world court plan approved by the foreign relations committee, the report declaring its adoption would enable the President to "promptly conclude with the States now adhering to the court a simple, direct and reasonable agreement." (Press, May 28.)

Bread Weight — Consumers lose $50,000,000 a year through the production of "underweight loaves" of bread, Representative Brand, of Ohio, yesterday told delegates at the National Conference on Weights and Measures at the Bureau of Standards. He condemned what he called "the baker's bonus," which he described as the extra profit made in selling less than 16-ounce loaves at the price of pound loaves. Representative Brand explained the bill he has introduced to enforce standard weights for bread shipped in interstate traffic. The bread weight question was the principal subject considered yesterday by the conference, which unanimously adopted a resolution indorsing Representative Brand's measure. It was explained that eleven States and the District of Columbia now have laws requiring standard loaves. Nine other States have laws which define standard loaves without making adherence to the standard obligatory. Dr. H. E. Barnard, director of the American Institute of Baking, proved that instead of the weight measurement being applied to the finished loaf, the standard should cover raw ingredients used in the baking. (Press, May 28.)

Section 2

Competition

An editorial in Modern Miller for May 24 says: "The world is searching for a legitimate code to check mad competition. Everywhere we find this developing as a paramount issue. British millers are in quest of a means to stop their mad elephant. American millers are thinking and fuming and being trampled under. Retail bakers are seeking relief from the Federal Trade Commission. The Federal Trade Commission has just appealed to the Supreme Court to uphold the order of the commission against several biscuit companies to refrain from giving quantity discounts to chain stores. The idea that buying in large quantity entitles the purchaser to lower prices is not upheld by the Federal Trade Commission. This would mean that the largest buyer could undersell his competitors and drive them out of business. This is the theory on which some big bakers have organized single buyers for many plants. The final decision of the Supreme Court on this point of lower price to quantity buyers will be watched with keen interest."

Farm Aid

An editorial entitled "Farmer's Salvation" in The Breeder's Gazette for May 22 says: "The Gazette receives numerous letters in which the phrase which heads this editorial is used. Last week, for instance, in one letter the passage of the McNary-Haugen bill was mentioned as being 'necessary to the farmer's salvation.' In the same mail came a letter in which cooperative commodity marketing was referred to as ensuring 'the farmer's salvation.' Some readers allude in letters to decreased taxation as the first step toward 'the farmer's salvation,' while others refer to lower tariff schedules, reduced freight rates, cheaper lumber and machinery, and no more tax-exempt bonds as requisite to bringing about 'the farmer's salvation.' It is a noteworthy surprise to receive two letters in the same mail in which none of the foregoing 'essentials' is mentioned, but, instead, this phrase occurs, 'The farmer's salvation lies in the efficient and economical production of crops and livestock.' There is general agreement that many farmers are economically unsaved....All the other mentioned 'remedies,' even if they were applied, could not greatly aid farmers who produced uneconomically and inefficiently."

Flour Trade

A Minneapolis dispatch to the press of May 27 says: "Flour trade during the last week took a slight turn for the better in price, and the mill output of the country as a whole increased somewhat, although it remains no better than 50 per cent of capacity. One of the large companies here has begun grinding at its new Buffalo mill, increasing the capacity at that center by 200,000 barrels weekly. Reports received here indicate that millers over the country are using the 'A B C' plan of keeping a closer check on the character of their business. This plan classifies their sales into three divisions: (a) That showing an honest profit.(b) That showing a profit on the face, but which may easily be turned into a loss account.(c) That indicating a loss. Despite the slight firming up in the trade, the flour market in general is far from satisfactory to millers. Buyers are in control of the situation and reports of price cutting are again coming in."

Freight Rates

1 An editorial in New England Homestead for May 24 says: "The Senate says, and the House doubtless will concur: To the Interstate Commerce Commission--You must overhaul the whole structure of freight rates on farm products and basic commodities; base the new rates partly upon the value of the stuff hauled. The practical result of this order will be to cheapen transportation of western and southern farm products to the markets of the Middle States and New England. We do not see how there can be much of any corresponding decrease to benefit producers or shippers in New England, except possibly some slight reduction in the interstate rate on milk. In all these cases the lowering of freight rates may mean the lowering of prices to an even greater extent. Where will New England get off on this deal?"

2 An editorial in Implement and Tractor Trade Journal for May 24 says: "When it costs more to ship a product to the market than the price it brings, it's a sign that a number of things are wrong, among them the cost of transportation. The railroads, being managed and owned by human beings, have been resisting any attempt to reduce the freight rates on agricultural products. Numerous efforts have been made to induce them to do so. But, like the union laborer with a high wage, the railroads hate to give it up and their attorneys have many astute ways of defending their position. Nobody who understands business begrudges any prosperity that may have come to the railroads. It avails nothing to call them 'robbers.' They are nothing of the kind. But their rates on agricultural products are far too high, considering the market price of those products and, both selfishly and altruistically, it is good policy for the carriers to bring these rates down. It is a situation to which the rest of the business community rightfully expects them to yield. Much pressure has been brought to bear against them, but as yet they haven't budged. It remains to be seen whether the joint resolution adopted by the United States Senate, directing the Interstate Commerce Commission to cut freight rates on farm products, including livestock, will get the action required....In a broad sense, the railroad may be regarded as an 'agricultural implement.' It transports commodities from the shipping station to the market and from the market to the shipping station. The other agricultural implements are sold at rock-bottom prices, in too many cases so low that real profit is out of the question. But the service of the railroads is sold to the farmer at high prices, higher than the value of his products can justify. It is time for them to be brought to a level somewhere near the figure that agriculture can afford to pay."

Middlemen

The Wall Street Journal for May 24 says: "Farm union officials are often quoted as saying that middlemen are getting part of the consumer's dollar which rightfully belongs to the farmer. It is undeniable that the middlemen do get a large percentage of the consumer's dollar, but is it true that it rightfully belongs to the farmer? If the farmer could deliver his products to the kitchen door prepared for consumption, and in the quantities desired by the consumers, he would get all that was paid for them. But that is an impossibility. There is the matter of distance

between the farms and the cities to be considered. A great many miles stretch between the farms of the Middle West and New York and other large cities. Distance makes it necessary that there be one class of middlemen to purchase, assemble, grade, sort and transport farm products. Banking and insurance come into this business of getting foodstuffs from the farm to the consumer. The cost is a part of the middleman's expenses. People in the cities buy potatoes by the quart or peck, meat by the pound or two as they require it, and bread comes to their homes fresh every day, wrapped in wax paper. The farmer does not perform any of the service necessary in this process other than to produce the raw material. He has not put the steak on the consumer's table, of the particular cut and in the quantity ordered and at the time the cook needed it. a farmer buys a suit of clothes, and pays much more than the first cost of the wool and cotton. He does this because the producer of the wool or cotton could not take the raw material and turn it into what he wanted, delivered when and where he specified. Middlemen handled it, and their service was as necessary as that of the man who raised the cotton or wool. What the consumer's dollar pays for is service. The first link in the chain is clearly the farmer, who produces the foodstuffs or textiles. From that point to the consumer's end there are many links. Each one is necessary because neither the farmer nor the consumer could do what they are doing. Some one must transport and process the wheat and steers and hogs and other products. Some one must be ready to take the products as they come to market and store them until the consumers call for them. Other middlemen must be ready to buy in smaller quantities and retail them out by quarts and pounds. All this is essential service, and must be paid for out of the consumer's dollar. Competition in these lines of business is sharp and keen. It is doubtful if a man could last long in any of these capacities if he did not do business on as close a margin as possible. Would it not be better, in this as in other things, to tell the farmers the simple truth?"

Production and Prices

H. J. Waters says in The Kansas City Star for May 21: "Just now the farmer's mind is not centered on matters pertaining to production. Attempts to interest him in ways of getting high yields, even without increased cost, have about the same appeal as would a picture of a savory meal to one who has indigestion from overeating. If the farmer is frank he tells us he believes overproduction is at the bottom of his present troubles. What then, he asks, can be the result of larger yields except lower prices and deeper distress? Until he can discover some way to get rid of his present surplus at a profitable price he is not likely to become much interested in ways of producing more. However unsound this view is for the individual, it does apply directly to agriculture as an industry. Therefore, so long as the present situation obtains, the interest of the rank and file is certain to be centered on matters of marketing rather than of production. If economists and farm management and market specialists could help the farmer control production and get rid of his surplus as effectively as the livestock and fruit specialists and chemists have helped him make the harvest sure, the road to farm prosperity would be an open one."

Rural Homes and Electricity

The rural woman is still a drudge and her house-labor equipment is fifty years behind the times of the up-to-date equipment found in the barn and field. That is the conclusion reached by Samuel S. Wyer, Associate in Mineral Technology, Smithsonian Institution, in an "Analysis of Electric Service for Rural Homes," drawn from recent surveys. On the average farm, he points out, the use of power or mechanical equipment for replacing animal and human muscular labor in the fields, around the barns and on the road is growing at a rapid rate; man's effective work by this multiplication of muscular effort is greatly increased, his working hours lessened and the tedium of his labor reduced, but usually with the rural woman it has not been thus. "The house where the wife and mother are drudges," continues Mr. Wyer, "can never be a home in the highest sense. The installation of modern labor-saving devices in the house would enable the woman to do her work with one-half the labor and would bring her contentment and better health." He points to these ways in which electric power would lighten house labors: Proper lighting but appreciating the distinction between mere lighting and correct illumination, and recognizing the need of eye conservation; motor service for water pumping, driving churn, washing machine, wringer, mangle, vacuum cleaner, sewing machine, dish washer, dough or batter-mixing machine, fan and ice machine and for cooking, but frankly facing the fact that electricity because it is already a form of energy--ready without further transformation for lighting and power purposes--is not a cheap form of heat and that the heat cost in comparison without heat sources will be higher. "The putting of labor-saving standards of the rural home on at least the same plane as the barn and the field is of national importance in the bearing that it will have in making for rural home contentment and welfare of the coming generation, Mr. Wyer says. (N.Y. Times, May 26.)

Wheat Price

The Wall Street Journal for May 27 says: "Reports from Europe indicate a winter wheat yield less than that of last year, while Europe is taking more wheat than it was estimated to need earlier in the season. These two facts would indicate that the new crop of wheat should sell at somewhat higher prices than now prevailing. Europe and India together have nearly the same acreage of winter wheat that they had last year. The estimated 4.2% decrease in the world's winter wheat acreage is accounted for almost entirely in the United States. Europe also increased its rye acreage sufficient to offset the decrease in the United States. The world crop of winter wheat and rye, therefore, on the acreage basis has a prospect of about 4% less than last year. Conditions at present do not favor the crop. The large production in Europe last year was due to a heavy yield per acre. Argentina and Australia also had large yields and Canada produced an extraordinary crop, averaging over 20 bushels to the acre. The Canadian crop of the preceding year also was large. Outside of the United States, therefore, the wheat crop of last year was due more to the favor of Providence than to the acreage. What Canada, Argentina and Australia will do this year no one at this time can say, but we do know that in Europe the conditions at present are not favorable to a repetition of last year's production. In the United States the

winter wheat crop is spotty...But there are no indications that it will be so much smaller as to cause scarcity; also the world's surplus promises to be fairly large. It is true that Canada's surplus is rapidly passing into consumption. There will be enough old wheat at the beginning of the new crop season to have a strong influence upon the price. In the circumstances, judging from crop conditions as they appear to-day and the apparent increase in consumption abroad, there is more hope for a moderate advance in prices than there has been at any time this year."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 27: Wheat market developing weaker tendency because of lighter export demand and more favorable weather in winter wheat belt. Prices still above corresponding time last week. Corn slightly lower with wheat. Oats continued steady. Quoted May 27, 1924. No.1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.17 to $1.35. No.2 hard winter Chicago $1.14 1/4; Kansas City $1.06 to $1.18; St. Louis $1.08 to $1.10. No.2 red winter Kansas City $1.08; St. Louis $1.12 to $1.15; No.3 red winter Chicago $1.05 3/4. No.2 yellow corn Chicago 79 1/4 to 80¢; Minneapolis 73 1/2¢; Kansas City 78 1/4¢. No.3 yellow St. Louis 77 1/2 to 78 3/4¢; Minneapolis 72 1/2¢. No.3 white corn St. Louis 79 1/2¢. No.3 white oats Chicago 47 1/4 to 48¢; Minneapolis 44 5/8 to 45 1/8¢; Kansas City 50¢; St. Louis 49 to 49 1/4¢.

Eastern Round White potatoes generally $1.65 to $1.75 sacked per 100 pound; top of $2 in Boston. Northern sacked Round Whites $1.40 to $1.50 in Chicago. Florida Spaulding Rose ranged from $6 to $7.50 per double head barrel. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions $1.50 to $1.85 per standard crate in consuming centers; Crystal Wax $2 to $2.25. Norfolk Wakefield cabbage generally $1.50 to $1.75; slightly weaker in New York at $1 to $1.12 1/2. Imperial Valley cantaloupes, salmon tints, standards 45's ranged from $7 to $9 in a few cities; $3.25 to $3.50 f.o.b. Tennessee Klondike strawberries $2.50 to $2.75 per 24-quart crate in Chicago, $3 to $3.50 in Pittsburgh and Cincinnati; $2 f.o.b. Norfolk and Eastern Shore Virginia berries 10¢ to 16¢ quart basis, in eastern markets.

Chicago hog prices closed at $7.50 for the top, bulk of sales $7 to $7.40; medium and good beef steers $7.90 to $10.85; butcher cows and heifers $4.25 to $9.75; feeder steers $5.25 to $10; light and medium weight veal calves $7.75 to $10.50 fat lambs $12.75 to $15; fat ewes $4.50 to $7.50.

Spot cotton down 19 points, closing at 30.75¢ per lb. New York July future contracts down 15 points, closing at 29.65¢. (Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.).

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 27,	May 26,	May 26, 1923
20 Industrials	90.15	90.60	97.48
20 R.R. stocks	83.02	83.34	82.58

(Wall St. Jour., May 28.)

DAILY DIGEST

Prepared in the United States Department of Agriculture for the purpose of presenting all shades of opinion as reflected in the press on matters affecting agriculture, particularly in its economic aspects. Responsibility, approval or disapproval, for views and opinions quoted is expressly disclaimed. The intent is to reflect accurately the news of importance.

May 29, 1924.

Section 1

Secretary Mellon on Tax Bill — Secretary Mellon has sent his opinion of the bill to the White House, containing studies of the various features of the new legislation. Strong objection has been expressed by Mr. Mellon principally to the sections authorizing certain inspection of tax details and also to the increased estate taxes. Ever since the bill went to Congress, the Secretary has insisted that surtax rates involving a higher maximum than 25 per cent would result in the same recourse to investment in tax-free securities which he sought to correct through cutting the present surtaxes in half. Congress rejected the Mellon program and made the surtax maximum 40 per cent. (Press, May 29.)

Japan Protests Exclusion Law — An Associated Press dispatch from Tokio to-day says: "Deep regrets that the United States has enacted the immigration bill including a clause barring Japanese is voiced in an official statement issued May 28 by the Foreign Office."

Agricultural Relief Legislation — An editorial in The New York Times to-day says: "The ultimatum has gone forth from the professional friends of the farmer in Congress that 'something must be done' for him before adjournment. They are unable to specify what. They can not agree among themselves. Till lately we had been told that the McNary-Haugen bill was to be the universal healer of agricultural ills. But it has encountered violent opposition in the House, from no one more severe than from some of the Representatives of the farming districts. ... It is now regarded as doomed even in the House, to say nothing of the impossibility of getting it through the Senate at the fag end of the session. Thus when Representatives and Senators besiege President Coolidge with the demand that there be some kind of farm legislation before Congress adjourns and the Presidential campaign begins, he is warranted in asking them to compose their own sharp differences before coming to him. From the first he has professed an earnest desire that Congress should do what it could legitimately for the relief of farmers caught in an emergency. But he has never particularized, and it begins to appear from the course of things in Congress that it is on the particulars that every scheme breaks down. All are agreed to give the farmers help, if only it can be shown how to do it without resulting in more harm than good to both them and the country. In such a state of perplexity and uncertainty, about the worst advice that could be given is to 'do something' in a spirit of desperation. The something done from such a motive is almost certain to be a bad thing."

Section 2

Business Conditions

In its summary of general business and financial conditions throughout the several Federal Reserve districts, based upon statistics for the months of April and May, the Federal Reserve Bulletin for May 28 says: "Factory employment and production of basic commodities declined in April and there was a further recession in wholesale prices. Retail trade was larger than in March, and was at about the level of earlier months of the year. There was a decrease in the volume of borrowing for commercial purposes and further easing of money rates. The Federal Reserve Board's index of production in basic industries, adjusted to allow for seasonal variations, declined 2 per cent in April. Declines were particularly large in the iron and steel, coal, and woolen industries. Mill consumption of cotton, on the other hand, showed less than the usual seasonal reduction between March and April. Factory employment declined 2 per cent in April, owing chiefly to large reduction of forces at textile and clothing establishments. Contract awards for new buildings reached a higher value than in March and were also larger than a year ago; value of building permits granted, however, declined and was smaller than in the corresponding month of 1923."

Cooperation 1

Frank O. Lowden is the author of an extensive article entitled "The Cooperation Cure," in The Country Gentleman for May 31. He says in part: "In no other realm except agriculture does the price of the exportable surplus fix the price of the great bulk of the particular product on the home market. Take wheat as an example. Under existing conditions the price at Liverpool not only determines the price we receive for our export wheat, but also fixes the price of that very much larger portion which we consume at home. Shall we supinely conclude that this condition is inevitable and must remain so? The markets of Europe are demoralized, their exchange in a chaotic condition, and Europeans are buying only piecemeal, by a hand-to-mouth policy. How long the world's markets will remain in this sad state no living man can say. Now in every field of production except farming we have declared our independence of the European market. The manufacturer, like the farmer, may at times produce too much of his goods for the domestic market. If so, he sells his surplus abroad in competition with the rest of the world for whatever he can get, perhaps for less than cost. But he does not allow this to control the price of the products he sells at home. Import duties afford him protection. And he justifies the price discrimination with the argument that greater production at a more uniform rate enables him to make the price of his product to the domestic consumer less than it would have been in a long series of years without this foreign outlet. Thus all other producers except the farmer sell their surplus abroad and in this way are able to maintain steady prices upon domestic sales. The farmer alone has heretofore sold his whole crop at home and received for it all the price dictated by foreign conditions. Thus the price which Europe is able or willing to give for the small exportable surplus of pork products, wheat and other farm commodities, controls the price which the great body of these commodities shall

bring. Just because 10 per cent or more of our pork products must be exported the other 90 per cent has to be priced accordingly. Literally the tail wags the dog. So far as I can see, there is but one way out of this bad situation for the farmer. Cooperation offers the only hope."

2 An editorial in New West Trade for May 24 says: "There are very many angles to cooperation and it is by no means so certain that all of them, or even many of them, are successful, efficient or economical. There is industrial cooperation of workers in the factory in a joint management, and there is cooperation between different manufacturers in the distribution of their products. The first fails at least 19 times out of 20 because of lack of the spur of individual initiative and ownership and the second fails about 9 times out of 10 because of the keenness of competition and because ... the Federal Government looks askance at most of the cooperative moves of manufactures. Then there is cooperation of retailers and jobbers in associations and in buying exchanges. The first is constructive, tending to improve the conditions and raise the standards of the business and is therefore good. The second, usually based on lack of confidence in other established legitimate and efficient business factors, and the desire to eliminate them or take over themselves their functions, is usually erroneous and sooner or later, 19 times out of 20 I should say, fails. Then there is cooperation of laborers and farmers in operating retail stores which usually fail, for the same reasons and in about the same ratio, though many cooperative stores have succeeded with efficient management."

Farm Taxes

An editorial in Chicago Journal of Commerce for May 27 says: "The complacency of the farm vote toward huge public expenditures is a byword among politicians. Farmers almost always vote yes on proposals for bond issues. Seldom do they stop to think that they must pay in the end. How terribly they are paying is demonstrated by Professor Richard T. Ely of the University of Wisconsin, the noted political economist, who, in an address before the Sears-Roebuck Agricultural Foundation, points out that 'taxes on farm lands steadily are approximating the annual value of farm lands,' and declares that 'in a relatively short period, if the movement continues unchecked, taxes will absorb all farm land values, the farmers' land will be confiscated by the States, and farmers will become virtual tenants of the State.' As director of the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities, Professor Ely has assembled information which provides thorough corroboration for his assertions. Since 1913 the taxes on farm lands in Ohio have increased 177 per cent. The increase in the same period in Kansas has been 271 per cent. In these two States 'the upcurving line representing tax increases is gaining so rapidly on the line representing land value increase, that it will not take an extremely long time for the two lines to cross,' says Professor Ely. In certain States there are instances in which the two lines already have crossed. In these instances the farmers are

virtually the tenants of the State. Certainly in this situation there is ample reason for alarm throughout the agricultural industry. And yet do we find that the farmers are thoroughly alarmed? We do not. The farmers as a whole are saving their fears and their indignation for other affairs. They are alarmed and indignant at the low prices of their products. They are indignant at the fact that the railroads, in order to stay out of the bankruptcy courts, are receiving decent rates on farm products. The farmers are indignant at these situations, and their indignation has found political expression. It would do the farmers and the entire country far more good if the indignation of the agricultural industry were directed at the action of governing bodies in confiscating their lands through taxation. High taxes are the paramount evil in the farming industry, just as in other industries. The country's main problem is the problem of reducing taxes -- Federal, State and local. This fact will be increasingly evident as the burden of bonus taxation bears down on the people."

Foreign Trade

An editorial in The Washington Post for May 28 says: "A comprehensive report of trade conditions and a study of import and export movements based on comparative figures covering recent determinative years, just issued by the Department of Commerce, show that America is continuing to improve its relative position in the competitive world field. While imports show an increase they are not competitive with American production and industry, and the Nation's exports register gains that promise much in the way of contribution to its continuing prosperity. While the comparative export gains for 1923 may not run as high as those of other years, when foreign competition was paralyzed by war and postwar conditions, they still hold, and this at a time when foreign commerce is reviving and foreign industry is readjusting itself to competitive bases. This is significant and is encouraging to American interests in that it shows the Nation's export trade is winning the share it which it is entitled."

Livestock Marketing

An editorial in The Breeder's Gazette for May 22 says: "Recent developments in the commercial beef cattle trade are much more significant, as presaging increased prices for purebred beef stocks, than most breeders appear to regard them. Men who have long been waiting and hoping for better days probably demand sensational events as proofs that their business is improving. Most of them are in a 'from Missouri' mood, refusing to banish it from their minds until it shall have been shocked out by extraordinary and sudden changes in the trade. Changes of that description have not occurred, and are not likely to take place, but the painful process of enforced liquidation and readjustment which has been going on for several years in the beefmaking industry has reached a point at which every new symptom or sign disclosed is reassuring. ... A revival of confidence is needed. It is justified by the behavior of the commercial cattle trade. The business not only will 'come back,' but it is on the way. It is stronger and more active at the 'bottom' than at the top. The sap is rising in it, however, and the top will flower and fruit again, as in the past. That is faith based on fact."

Section 3
MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 28: Chicago hog prices closed at $7.40 for the top and $6.85 to $7.30 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers $7.90 to $11; butcher cows and heifers $4.25 to $9.75; feeder steers $5.25 to $10; light and medium weight veal calves $7.50 to $10.25; fat lambs $13 to $15.25; spring lambs $11.50 to $17.15; yearlings $10.25 to $13; fat ewes $4.50 to $7.50.

Eastern Round White potatoes closed at $1.65 to $1.90 sacked per 100 lbs. Northern sacked Round Whites in Chicago $1.40 to $1.55. South Carolina Cobblers weaker at $4 to $5.50 per cloth top slat barrel in eastern markets; $5 f.o.b. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions $1.50 to $1.75 per standard crate. Virginia Wakefield cabbage $1.50 to $1.75 per barrel crate in eastern city markets; $1.25 f.o.b. for branded stock. California cantaloupes, salmon tints, standards 45's ranged $8 to $9 in a few markets, top of $10 in Pittsburgh; $3 to $3.25 f.o.b. New York Baldwin apples $4 to $4.50 per bbl. Tennessee Klondike strawberries in Chicago $2.50 to $3 per 24-quart crate. Norfolk, Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland berries ranged 10 to 20¢ quart basis, in eastern cities; $4 to $5.50 per 32-quart crate to growers.

Grain prices quoted May 28: No. 1 dark northern spring wheat Minneapolis $1.16 1/2 to $1.34 1/4. No. 2 hard winter c Chicago $1.07 1/4 to $1.13; Kansas City $1.05 to $1.18; St. Louis $1.07 1/2. No. 2 red winter Kansas City $1.08; St. Louis $1.12 1/2 to $1.13. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago 78 1/4 to 78 1/2¢. No. 3 yellow St. Louis 77 1/2¢; Kansas City 78 1/2¢. No. 3 white St. Louis 77 to 79¢; Kansas City 76 1/2¢. No. 3 white oats Chicago 47 3/4 to 48¢; St. Louis 48 3/4 to 49¢; Kansas City 49 1/2 to 50¢.

Average price of Middling spot cotton in 10 designated spot markets declined 21 points, closing at 30.54¢ per lb.; New York July future contracts declined 13 points, closing at 29.52¢.
(Prepared by Bu. of Agr. Econ.)

Industrials and Railroads

Average closing price	May 28,	May 27,	May 28, 1923
20 Industrials	89.90	90.15	97.25
20 R.R. stocks	82.67	83.02	83.16

(Wall St. Jour., May 29.)

DAILY DIGEST

May 31, 1924.

Section 1

Agricultural Bill Report Passes House

The House yesterday adopted the conference report on the agriculture appropriation bill, carrying $61,147,993. As originally passed in the House, the measure authorized $56,583,743. As reported from conference the bill appropriates $452,540, as proposed by the Senate, for enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards act, instead of $226,770 as first written in by the House. The conferees agreed on a proviso, replacing one inserted by the House and stricken out in the Senate, stipulating that the Secretary of Agriculture may require reasonable bonds from registrants to secure the performance of their obligations, under the Packers and Stockyards act. (Press, May 31)

The President on World Court Plan

America's entry into the World Court on the conditions proposed by President Harding and Secretary Hughes and a further limitation of armament were urged yesterday by President Coolidge in his Memorial Day address over the graves of the Nation's war dead in Arlington National Cemetery. His declaration is generally considered to outline the program on foreign affairs he intends to present for the approval of the people in the coming campaign. The President, while making it clear that he would not oppose other reservations as such, said that he would not approve any "material changes which would probably not receive the consent of the many other signatory nations." He recalled how he had already indorsed the Harding reservations, and added: "We are not going to be able to avoid meeting the world and bearing our part of the burdens of the world. We must meet those burdens and overcome them, or they will meet us and overcome us. For my part, I desire my country to meet them without evasion, without fear, in an upright, downright, square, American way. While there are those who think we would be exposed to peril by adhering to this Court, I am unable to attach great weight to their arguments. Whatever differences, whatever perils exist for us in the world will come anyway, whether we oppose or support the Court. I am one of those who believe we would be safer, and that we would be meeting our duties better, by supporting it and making every possible use of it." (Press, May 31.)

Agricultural Credit Corporation

The Treasury officials were advised yesterday that the Agricultural Credit Corporation, organized at the instance of the President to aid in relieving the stringent credit situation in the Northwest, has made a second call on its capital subscriptions. The call is for $2,000,000, making a total of $4,000,000 paid in from a total authorized capital of $10,000,000. (Press, May 31.)

Section 2

Agricultural Exports

An editorial in The Saturday Evening Post for May 31 says: "In these days of lamentation over the state of agriculture and the decline of demand for our farm products in the European market it is gratifying to be able to record an improvement. One high point stands out in the export trade of 1923 -- the export of pork products. We possess good statistics of pork production in inspected packing houses and of export of these domestic products. The average export of domestic pork products in the five years before the war was 922,000,000 pounds. That was a large business; we held then, as now, the monopoly of the overseas trade in pork products. For the year 1923 the corresponding export was 1,994,000,000 pounds, more than double the volume of exports before the war. ... When one tries to interpret this export in terms of the meaning to prices, that depends on whether one does so from the importing or the exporting point of view. The hog prices during 1923 were regarded by producers as much too low. But where would the price have been without this export? It was to a goodly extent the continuous flow of export that enabled the packing houses to absorb the extraordinary flow of hogs to market during 1923. The weight of the export for the year corresponded to 21 per cent of the production of the inspected packing houses. Both the weight and the percentage are striking. Surely it is fair to urge that the exports sustained the domestic price; and if the situation of the corn-and-hog belt during the past year was regarded as unsatisfactory, it would have been much worse had it not been for the exports. From the standpoint of the importing countries, especially Europe, it is probably true that so large a volume of pork products was imported because the price was cheap, or regarded as cheap. At the same time these importations may properly be interpreted as indication of improvement in the economic condition, the purchasing power of Europe."

Cooperative Marketing

An editorial in Modern Farming for May 25 says: "The ultimate aim of cooperative marketing is to assure to the producer of farm crops a just and profitable return for his labor. This condition is sought as a basis for farm operations -- not as a glorious price grab for a season. Stability is the essential which Southern agriculture most lacks, and if this quality is promoted by the co-ops they will have gone far in justifying their existence. Stability of prices rests on the intrinsic quality of the product offered for sale, and the inherent efficiency of the marketing machinery used in distributing that product to its consuming public. These factors are distinct from the elements of opportunism which have stained the business of farm marketing with the tinge of speculative enterprise. There is no doubt that by effective organization the farmer could force prices sky high for a time. And there is less doubt that such a course would be suicidal to his best interests. Such a

policy has been tried in industry, and strong reactions have invariably set in. No social group will be allowed to dictate the prices of the necessities of life for long at a time. Because this is true, the spirit of cooperation is really of greater value than the changes in price level which this spirit brings about. Prices, even under an ideal system, would fluctuate some from season to season. But the beneficent action of the spirit of human cooperation is a stabilizing influence through all time."

Cotton Mill Men Ask High Tariff

Resolutions advocating a high tariff, condemning "political manipulation of the tariff" and recommending that the child labor question be left to the individual States to decide were passed at Atlantic City May 28 during the concluding session of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association's convention. Other resolutions ask for a more even distribution of the general tax burden and for an investigation by the Department of Commerce of the cost of distributing cotton goods; pledged cooperation with manufacturers desiring to locate in the South; approved the establishment of textile courses in colleges; suggested development of Muscle Shoals for the manufacture of explosives during war and fertilizers in peace, and petitioned Congress to take charge of the fight against the boll weevil. (Press, May 29.)

Flexible Tariff Provision to be Tested

A New York dispatch to the press of May 29 states that the National Council of American Importers and Traders, Inc., has decided to test the constitutionality of the flexible provisions of the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act. This action was determined upon May 28 by a unanimous vote of the board of directors, acting upon the report of a special committee. It is expected that the test will take the form of application to the Federal Courts for an injunction to restrain the collection of any increased tax and that the issue will be pressed to the Supreme Court. The council declares that the principle of vesting so large a measure of taxing power solely in the discretion of the President is an unwelcome and unwholesome innovation in American institutions.

Forest as a Crop

An editorial in The Florida Times-Union for May 27 says: "Recognition of the forest as a crop to be cultivated and conserved seems to be the basic idea of the bill of Senator Fletcher to authorize the acceptance of title to forest lands in the State of Florida and to create national forests therefrom which passed the Senate last week and was sent to the lower house of Congress for its concurrence. As described by the author of the measure it is not for the benefit of any individual or class, but is solely in the interest of forestry and the lumber industry -- therefore, for the interest of the whole people. It provides that to enable owners of lands chiefly valuable for the growing of timber crops situated in the State of

Florida to donate or devise such lands to the United States for national forest purposes, in order to assure future timber supplies for the agricultural and other industries of the State, the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States be authorized to accept such gift or devise. The Florida legislature has given the State government power to convey lands for forestry purposes. ... This bill enables the utilization of much cut-over land, most of it surrendered for taxes and little fit for the production of other crops, to the growing of a crop of everyincreasing importance -- timber. Forty or fifty years hence this land will provide a harvest of a nature such as will evidently be of even more value than now. The uses of timber are increasing in amount and number, as readers well know. As though to illustrate the need of such measures as this, a dispatch appears in the same issue of the Times-Union which conveys the text of the bill here spoken of. It was from New Orleans, and stated that the production and exports of southern pine lumber and timber for the first four months of 1924 apparently exceeded that of any similar period since 1916. Without quoting figures, it may be said that it there made evident that the production of such lumber and timber has grown in an increasing ratio for the past three years at least. The production of nearly one and a half billion feet of lumber for the first four months of this year excites the wonder whether the growth of the forests can catch up with the destruction of them before the timber crop on the newly forested lands will be available for the demands of commerce and construction, even with the advantage of the long growing season of Florida."

Machine Methods

An editorial in Farm Implement News for May 22 says: "American farmers saved 1,382,539,204 days in producing their eight leading crops by machine methods compared to the methods of farming in vogue less than a hundred years ago, according to the figures by the Research Department of the National Association of Farm Equipment Manufacturers. By standardizing practice and introducing the methods of the best farmers for the average would increase this a fifth on corn, while on potatoes, hay and cotton the saving can still be doubled by machinery."

Middlemen

An editorial in Pennsylvania Farmer for May 24 says: "The city man has gotten into the habit of demanding what he calls 'service,' that is he wants what he wants when he wants it. The present system of large scale marketing seems cumbersome and expensive; it survives because it works and because it supplies the service the consumer demands. In the marketing as well as in the production of food products, someone has to take chances and suffer occasional losses. The middleman is willing to bear the responsibilities and take the chances as long as he breaks even or comes out ahead enough of the time to make it pay. When farmers, through their own organizations, are able to assume these responsibilities and perform the service now given by the middleman, then, and not until then, can they pocket the margin of profit that now goes into his hands."

Packers vs. Grocers

An editorial in The National Provisioner for May 24 says: "At the annual convention of the National Wholesale Grocers' Association, held in Dallas, Tex., this month, the president of the association pointed out that even if the big packers can distribute more economically than the 4,000 wholesale grocers, it is not good politically or economically to permit such a 'monopoly.' The old cry. For whom is it not good economically? It is good for the producer and it is good for the consumer. But it is not good for a small group of antiquated middlemen, the wholesale grocers. Hence, from their viewpoint, the public should continue to be saddled with the price of their inefficiency. The grocers' remedy is to become as efficient in distribution as are the packers. Then there will be no question of the competition that kills even a suggestion of monopoly. The opportunity is theirs. It has been theirs from the beginning, but they have not seen fit to grasp it. Instead they want to hide behind the skirts of legislation. They promise to fight to the finish the effort to annul the consent decree. Is this fight to take on the aspects of the one they waged half a dozen years ago, when the assistance of the Federal Trade Commission, the politicians and others was sought and secured? ..."

Railroad Policy

In an editorial on "Formulating a Railroad Policy," The Journal of Commerce for May 29 says: "Careful, honest and intelligent study of the railroad situation in this country could not fail to lead Congress also to the conclusion that it ought to keep its hands off the regulating machinery which it has brought into being. The advantages to be derived by the country from such a consummation would be positive as well as negative. No longer would our commissions be packed with political hangers on dependent upon members of Congress and other political manipulators for their official existence and therefore under constant pressure to hurt the transportation industry in order to give special subsidies to this, that or the other branch of business. With proper encouragement from Congress a strong Interstate Commerce Commission would likewise see to it that some progress was made in the matter of placing our rate structure upon a more sane basis, as the President suggested some time ago in one of his addresses to Congress. What is needed is some quiet thought and study of available information with a view to reshaping our thinking and our general attitude toward the railroads. Such thought would tend to lead more to the avoidance of newlegislation than to an increase of the multitude of proposals that annually come before Congress for consideration. That the committee now suggested would thus wisely employ its time there is unfortunately reason enough to doubt. Unless some way can be found to encourage it to do so the whole matter may as well be dropped."

Section 3

MARKET QUOTATIONS

Farm Products

May 29:--Chicago hog prices closed at $7.45 for the top and $7 to $7.40 for the bulk. Medium and good beef steers closed at $8 to $11.15; butcher cows and heifers $4 to $9.50; feeder steers $5.25 to $10; fat lambs $13 to $15.25; spring lambs $11.50 to $17.15; yearlings steady at $10.25 to $13.25; fat ewes $4.50 to $7.50.

Eastern Round White potatoes about steady, closing at $1.65 to $2, sacked per 100 pounds. Northern sacked Round Whites 25¢ higher in Chicago, ranging $1.45 to $1.60. Florida Spaulding Rose slightly weaker in Boston at $9 to $9.50 per double head barrel, lower in other eastern consuming centers at $4.75 to $6. Texas Yellow Bermuda onions 10 to 25¢ lower at $1.50 to $1.75 per standard crate. Virginia Wakefield cabbage 75¢ to $1 lower at $1 to $1.50 per barrel crate in consuming markets; $1.25 for branded stock f.o.b. Norfolk. Tennessee Klondike strawberries nearly steady in Chicago at $2.15 to $3.50 per 24-quart crate, Aromas $4.75 to $5.25. Berries from the Eastern Shore of Virginia and Maryland ranged 10 to 17¢ quart basis in eastern cities; $4 to $4.50 per 32-quart crate to growers at shipping points. California cantaloupes, salmon tints, standards 45's, $7 to $8 in consuming centers, reaching $9 in Philadelphia.

Butter--Closing prices, 92 score: New York 40¢; Chicago 38 1/4¢; Philadelphia 41¢; Boston 40¢.

Average grain prices quoted May 29: No. 1 dark northern spring Minneapolis $1.16 to $1.34. No. 2 hard winter Chicago $1.07 1/2 to $1.15 1/2, Kansas City $1.05 to $1.13; St. Louis $1.07. No. 2 red winter Kansas City $1.09; St. Louis $1.11 to $1.12. No. 2 yellow corn Chicago 78 1/4 to 78 3/4¢; Kansas City 79¢; Minneapolis 72 1/2 to 73¢; No. 3 yellow corn Kansas City 78¢; St. Louis 77 to 78¢; Minneapolis 71 1/2 to 72¢. No. 3 white corn Kansas City 77¢; St. Louis 77 1/2 to 79¢. No. 3 white oats Chicago 47 to 48¢; Kansas City 48 1/2 to 49¢; St. Louis 48 1/2 to 48 3/4¢; Minneapolis 44 3/4 to 45 1/4¢.

Spot cotton up 4 points, closing at 30.58¢ per lb. New York July future contracts up 13 points, closing at 29.65¢.
(Prepared by Div. of Agr. Econ.)